

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the
proposal to suspend the
Saipan Zoning Law?

Let your voice be heard!
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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of August 3, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmiphoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

I N S I D E



Funeral Cortège

Masses of mourners yelled her name as Corazon Aquino's body was escorted to Manila Cathedral.

ASIA...Page 15

Mothers of Saipan star in new documentary. **PAGE 2**
Japanese, 71, still in ICU after being hit by car. **PAGE 3**

AHEAD OF FEDERALIZATION

Rahall, other US lawmakers set visit

Thousands of guest workers, community members to hold assembly

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The chairman of the powerful U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), will arrive for the first time on Saipan this Saturday, along with Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP) and other congressional members, to see for themselves the possible impact of federalization on the economy, the local community and foreign workers, among other things.

See RAHALL on Page 4

'MCV surcharge not brought about by PUC expenses'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Local cable service provider Marianas Cablevision has began charging its subscribers an additional \$1.50 surcharge to cover the expenses it incurred in dealing with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

The commission, however, said it didn't charge Marianas Cablevision for any expense the company is asserting to justify the surcharge.

See MCV on Page 4



HAZARDOUS WORK

With overcast skies and the USNS *Jack Lummus* in the background, a man braves the high surf and dangerous rip currents as he uses a small boat to fish in the Saipan lagoon yesterday afternoon. The Emergency Management Office yesterday issued a high surf and small craft advisory due to a large swell from west winds in the Philippine Sea. Fishermen, tour operators, divers, swimmers and other members of the public are urged to stay out of the water or avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along west facing reefs, where rip currents will be life-threatening. See story on Page 6.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Construction of 2 GTC buildings delayed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Many students at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School will be combined

in similar classes when schools open in September due to a delay in the construction of the school's two most dilapidated buildings.

School principal Charlotte Camacho

said Buildings S and G, which house 10 classrooms for mostly lower grades, are expected to be ready for occupancy only in November, based on the construction

See CONSTRUCTION on Page 4



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Local

Mothers of Saipan star in new documentary

Free screening set this Thursday at AMP theater

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Flame Tree TV Productions is inviting the public to a special premiere of a documentary titled *Mothers of Saipan: Changing with the Times*, to be held at the American Memorial Park theater at 7pm on Thursday, Aug. 6. Admission is free.

This documentary is 52-min-

ute presentation of a mother's perspective on the main themes of home, health and heritage as they relate to Chamorro and Carolinian cultures.

The project was completed last week through a grant from the CNMI Council of Humanities.

The film is a first attempt at an oral history about how past and present generations of Chamor-

ro and Carolinian mothers take care of the home, nurture their children and rely on traditional health systems.

Chaliang Palacios, who served as one of the cultural resources during the production along with former lawmaker Malua Peter, said this film presents an unwritten history about the elderly and the kind of respect they earn from the community in a matrilineal setting.

"I was very impressed. You will learn a lot about mothers," said Palacios after seeing the film on Sunday.

She joined project director Bob Coldeen and KSPN news anchor Lannie Walker during a news briefing yesterday at the Flame Tree TV Studio.

Coldeen said the project took five months to complete.

Walker interviewed 13 mothers of diverse backgrounds talking about child rearing, discipline, healthcare, education, language, and religion as they



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Bob Coldeen, project director of the documentary *Mothers of Saipan: Changing with the Times*, is joined by KSPN news anchor Lannie Walker, left, and Chaliang Palacios of the Council of Humanities during a press conference yesterday at the Flame Tree TV Studio.

relate to culture.

Stories are told that stretch from World War II to the present.

"We didn't really know how to start. It was interesting for a reporter to get a deeper view of the culture," Walker said.

Coldeen said it is a sincere

documentary, focusing on marriage, child rearing and the roles of mothers in a society.

"These are voices that we don't normally hear," Coldeen said.

KSPN will announce the film-showing premiere on its regular

news program at 6pm today.

The video was edited by Isaac Ngirbabul and produced by Flame Tree TV Productions.

Coldeen said 30 copies of the video would be provided to the Humanities Council to be distributed to school libraries.

Zoning shelves bid for waste oil processor in tourism district

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board has shelved the application of a permit for an incinerator and treatment facility submitted by a waste oil-processing firm in one of Saipan's tourist areas.

Zoning administrator Victor Barrett said the consultant of the waste oil processor recently met with him to discuss a preliminary review of the permit application to build the incinerator on a parcel of land off Beach Road, next to Price Costco and Hollywood Movie Theatres.

Barrett did not name the company nor the consultant.

"I advised this consultant that the Saipan zoning law does not allow for that kind of industrial use in the Beach Road Tourism District," said Barrett in a statement issued yesterday.

The Commonwealth zoning board issued the statement to illustrate the possible negative impact of a proposal to suspend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

"This is a current and real example of what could happen if the zoning law is suspended. This waste oil process incinerator could open at this location theoretically the day after the zoning law is suspended. In the end, zoning, at its best, is about protecting property values and residents' quality of life," the board said.

Suspending the law could lead to a similar experience in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane

Katrina, the board said.

"One of the unfortunate consequences of the zoning law suspension was the approval of a debris landfill in the heart of a vibrant Asian community. With no public hearing or oversight and hasty preparation in response to the disaster, some contended that basic safety standards, including clay liners to prevent toxic chemical seepage were overlooked in favor of cost-saving and expedience. And the trouble didn't end when Mayor Nagin allowed the zoning suspension to expire. The company owning the waste site sued the state Department of Environmental Quality to prevent the site from closing, since it was now a pre-existing condition," it said.

Barrett, who took over the post over a month ago, said this unfortunate example could be repeated here on Saipan.

Barrett explained that the importance of a consistent application of zoning law is sadly underscored for the residents of the New Orleans' Versailles neighborhood who are rebuilding their lives.

"Today, when they propose creating their community gardens, they have to plan around an unintended mountain of trash," he said.

Just last week, the board reported a reduction in the backlog of permit applications by 73 percent in the past six weeks, down to just 70 from 262.

The board said it processed a total of 388 new applications,

with over 300 new permits issued to business and property

owners now in compliance with the new law.

'Creditors of defunct Advance Textile may not get any money'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

With \$2.05 million in unpaid taxes, creditors of the defunct garment manufacturer Advance Textile Corp. will probably not get any money from the company.

Wayson Wong, lead attorney for Advance Textile Corp.'s bankruptcy trustee Robert J. Steffy Sr., stated in federal court documents that they have collected over \$800,000 for the Advance Textile estate.

However, Wong said, the administration of the estate, which include \$2.05 million in unpaid taxes, "indicate that probably no distribution will be made to any general creditors."

Wong recently applied for an order authorizing the trustee to pay him \$48,196.56 in fees and costs incurred to represent the trustee in this case, covering the period from Sept. 1, 2006, to the closing of the case.

Wong is demanding a total final payment of \$234,043.58.

On Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted Wong's application for final compensation.

"This court finds that the payment of the final attorney's fees and costs requested in this application are reasonable and the services performed for them have been necessary for the administration of the estate and therefore grants the application," Munson said.

The judge authorized Steffy to pay Wong's concluding fees and costs in the amount of \$48,196.56.

"Such concluding payment and all previous payments for attorneys' fees and costs approved by this court and paid to the trustee's attorneys constitute the final payment for such attorneys' fees and costs for this case," Munson said.

In December 2006, Munson disallowed the payment for many hours charged by Steffy's counsel such as conferences between co-counsel and staff, billing preparation, travel expenses, and even meals.

The Advance Textile bankruptcy case has been dragging on in court for six years now.

Dr. Terry Dawson, one of the creditors of ATC, claimed in 2006 that the trustee's legal cost eroded the value of the debtor's estate, with nothing to show for its efforts except consistently asking for more money.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Who's traveling our Northern Mariana Islands? Let's find out more about the visitors from our major markets.

China

China, along with Russia, is a secondary tourism market for the Northern Marianas. Last fiscal year, visitors from China comprised 8% of all visitors (31,095 out of 396,497 total arrivals). So far this fiscal year, Chinese make up 7% of all visitors arrivals (155,877 of 18,474 arrivals through June 2009). So far, Chinese arrivals are down -24% overall this year, largely in part to fewer available flights. With the resumption of charter flights from Guangzhou and Shanghai earlier this month, we expect to see more Chinese visitors.

Who is our average Chinese visitor? In June 2009, 54 percent of them were males and 46 percent were females. The largest age group was 25-44 (61 percent). Over three-quarters of them (77 percent) were on their first visit to the CNMI, while 15 percent had visited the CNMI before (8 percent did not respond).

Who do our Chinese visitors travel with, and how do they make their travel arrangements? 48 percent of Chinese traveling to the Northern Marianas last month came as part of a tour group, as 53 percent were traveling on packaged tours. The overwhelming travel plan during their stay was pleasure (69 percent), followed by business, honeymoon, and others.

What influences our average Chinese visitor to choose the Northern Marianas over other destinations? The most popular factors were travel agents (50 percent) and friends/relatives (12 percent), followed by other factors.

So the next time you see a visitor you think might be from China, smile and give them a cheerful "hafa adai" welcome!



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Japanese, 71, still in ICU after being hit by car

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A pedestrian who was hit by a car while crossing Beach Road in San Antonio Thursday night is still in the Commonwealth Health Center's Intensive Care Unit, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

DPS spokesman Jason Tarkong said the victim, a 71-year-old Japanese female, is listed as clinically stable at CHC's ICU.

The victim suffered bleeding in the head, pelvic fracture, and abrasions in different parts of the body. She also sustained lacerations on the right earlobe and a fractured right clavicle.

Tarkong said traffic investigators found the driver, a 36-year-old female, at fault and having caused the accident.

Tarkong said the violations include failure to exercise due care, failure to observe pedestrian's right of way at a crosswalk, and failure to observe the speed limit.

The car involved—a 2001 Kia Sephia

four-door sedan—was impounded as evidence.

Tarkong said that on Thursday at 7:11pm, DPS Central received a call from a police officer who reported an auto-pedestrian accident in front of San Antonio Market.

When the officers arrived at the scene, they saw the unconscious victim being treated by medics.

The victim was immediately taken to CHC's emergency room where she was treated and admitted to the ICU in critical

condition.

Tarkong said police learned that the Japanese woman was crossing Beach Road from a food vendor located on the northbound shoulder of Beach Road.

The victim walked west across Beach Road using the pedestrian crosswalk. When she passed the halfway mark center divider, she entered the southbound lane and was hit by the car, which was traveling south. The victim fell unconscious, landing some 30 feet away from the point of impact.

Police investigation is ongoing.

Trades Institute gets \$5,000 worth of donated textbooks

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

When McGraw-Hill Education's Pacific Region representative Patrick Guerrero yesterday handed over some \$5,000 worth of new textbooks to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, he urged other businesses to also step forward and support the only trade school in the CNMI.

The donation consists of 70 new textbooks and accompanying workbooks/manuals for culinary and automotive courses.

"This will help the students and the Trades Institute a lot. We are thankful for the donations," said NMTI president Anthony Pellegrino as he and NMTI education director Victorino S. Cepeda accepted the 15 boxes of book donations from Guerrero at the school in Lower Base.

James Thomas, an NMTI instructor for automotive courses who was also present at the donation, said a basic foundation of any curriculum is up-to-date reference books and McGraw-Hill's donations will go a long way in helping

produce skillful workers.

Pellegrino and Cepeda said NMTI's growing student population would need all the help it can get, especially with the economic downturn. This semester alone, the institute has 184 enrollees.

"Because of the large number of students, we may have to let instructors teach two classes for each course or we may need to hire more instructors," said Cepeda.

Guerrero said McGraw-Hill recognized the challenges faced by NMTI. He said accommodation of both space and instructors are becoming a challenge for the trades institute.

"Some of their immediate needs include student chairs and teacher desks and equipment. ...Add to these challenges the lack of instructional materials such as textbooks and teacher resources and this is where McGraw-Hill Education [came in]," Guerrero said.

Besides the student textbooks and workbooks, McGraw-Hill also donated teacher resources, including CD-ROMS, teacher editions for workbooks and laboratory manuals, and lesson

planner and assessment CD-ROMs.

McGraw-Hill Education (www.mheducation.com) is under The McGraw-Hill Companies, a leading global information services provider meeting worldwide needs in the financial services, education and business information markets through leading brands such as Standard & Poor's, BusinessWeek, and J.D. Power and Associates.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Northern Marianas Trades Institute president Anthony Pellegrino, NMTI instructor James Thomas, NMTI education director Victorino S. Cepeda, and McGraw-Hill Education Pacific Region representative Patrick Guerrero show the over \$5,000 worth of new student textbooks on culinary and automotive courses donated by McGraw-Hill Education to NMTI yesterday in Lower Base.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Special Meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, August 05, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
- II. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- III. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**
 - a. Status of Current/Proposed Projects
- IV. **MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS**
 - a. Loan Conversion
 - b. HOME Financial Assistance
 - c. Status of Lot 003 D 16
- V. **ADMIN & PROCUREMENT MATTERS**
 - a. Travel Policy
 - b. RFP - Audit for 2009/2010
 - c. Personnel-Employment Contract
- VI. **FISCAL AFFAIRS**
- VII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- VIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- IX. **OTHER MATTERS**
- X. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

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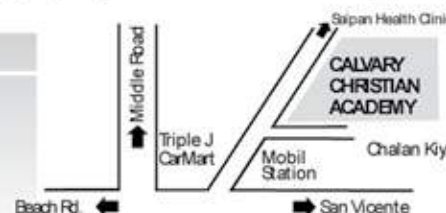


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Guidelines on allowable expenses for stimulus grants sought

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidEE_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial directed the Department of Finance yesterday to issue a memorandum on allowable direct or indirect costs for federal stimulus funding.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said this was one of the things discussed in yesterday's Cabinet meeting on Capital Hill. He said Finance will coordinate with the Department of Commerce on the advisory pending Office and Management Budget guidelines.

The CNMI is eligible to receive millions in funding under the American Re-

covery and Reinvestment Act grants.

Just last week, the Office of the Governor announced receiving a second competitive grant award from ARRA funds. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services awarded the CNMI a grant of \$519,048 to fund the hiring of nine police officers for a three-year period.

In yesterday's Cabinet meeting, Fitial urged action on the COPS ARRA grant to draw down funds. Commerce Secretary Michael Ada also gave an update on ARRA funding, including procurement issues.

In the meeting, Veterans Affairs Of-

fice executive officer Ruth Coleman also informed the governor that a Veterans Clinic should be ready by 2010.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs awarded the CNMI \$891,235 to build an outreach clinic on Saipan that would provide free healthcare to over 900 veterans.

The office of Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan reported on its website that as of July 23, 2009, the ARRA funds awarded to the CNMI stand at \$112,954,352. It's not immediately known from the CNMI Finance or Commerce how much of these awards have actually reached the CNMI.

New home program suspends interest payments

Borrowers who may qualify under the financial hardship assistance could avail of no principal and no interest payment under the new home program currently being pushed by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

This is based on the public notice of emergency regulations and notice of intent to adopt the Homeownership Investment partnership Program policies and procedures for homeowner rehabilitation and homebuyers.

According to the regulations, this moratorium assistance may be provided to borrowers who have voluntarily lost employment or a household's income earner, experiences a death of an immediate family member (biological or step-father, mother, brother, sister), or experiences unforeseen excessive medical expenses.

The "no-principal-and-no-interest-payment" will be enforced for a year. However, clients will be required to pay their monthly insurance premiums and will be strongly encouraged to make payments whenever they can to lessen their future re-amortized monthly payment.

The account will remain inactive during the one-year moratorium period and the interest accrual and late fee charges will not be charged to the account.

Upon the moratorium's expiration, the total outstanding balance including the one-year non-payment period of principal and interest, will be added together, re-amortized, and the term of the loan extended for up to five years.

Under this term, the borrower must be within the 40 percent debt-to-income ratio. *(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)*

CONSTRUCTION

From Page 1

schedule provided by the contractor.

The buildings were supposed to be ready by Sept. 8 but its completion was pushed to a later date due to some delays in finding a qualified contractor for the project.

Camacho said the Public School System received more than 10 applications but only one had the capability to secure U.S. bonds as a requirement.

"We were supposed to use these buildings but now that we don't have

it, we have no choice but to combine affected students to similar classes like the two first-grade classes, which will be placed in the same classroom with their teachers. We're expecting the situation [to remain] until November," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Class schedules will also be affected.

GTC was supposed to get \$800,000 for the project from the Community Development Block Grant but the funding was cancelled in favor of a soccer field in Koblerville.

To resolve the issue, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reprogrammed over \$700,000 in CIP money for the school construc-

tion, with the intention to complete the work during summer.

Camacho is calling for a special meeting with parents of GTC students on Aug. 13, at 5pm to discuss the matter.

As of yesterday, the school already had a total of 224 students and the school has closed enrollment. At present, additional enrollees are being accommodated only for kindergarten classes, which only has 20 students as of yesterday.

"Enrollment at GTC is closed due to combined classes to accommodate construction," Camacho said.

Over a hundred students occupy the problem buildings on a daily basis, according Camacho.

She said contractor is now in the process of submitting all the requirements prior a notice to proceed, to be issued by PSS.

After the special meeting with parents, a public hearing is also scheduled to be conducted on campus focusing on the reprogramming of the \$800,000

CDBG grant by NMHC.

"We know that this issue of cancellation of the GTC project from CDBG has been resolved. We just want our parents to express their disappointment, so next time if GTC does submit a proposal the situation will not happen again. That's our purpose," she said.

Camacho said only buildings B and D are ready to accommodate enrollees in September.

MCV

From Page 1

In a July 30 letter to Sen. Paul Manglona, PUC said any regulatory costs would be absorbed by the commission as an administrative expense.

The commission also disclosed that it agreed in a June 20 meeting that no new MCV Broadband regulation would be appropriate until amendments to the law are made to its enabling legislation.

In an interview yesterday, Manglona said the MCV matter has been referred to the Senate legal counsel for review. The senator would not say if the surcharge is appropriate or legal.

The additional \$1.50 surcharge was reflected on Internet and basic cable

billings issued yesterday.

The company earlier disclosed that the surcharge, though temporary, aims to cover the "substantial expenses" it incurred in the process of explaining federal regulations to the PUC through Docket 09-04. MCV said it intends to recover those expenses through the surcharge.

MCV argued that the surcharge is in accordance with federal regulations, which permit cable companies to specifically identify as a separate line item on the bill all expenses related to public, education or government channels, among other charges.

The company promised to terminate the surcharge as soon as all expenses related to Docket 09-04 and any additional actions by PUC are fully recovered.

The commission's vice chair, Kyle

Calebrese, had already informed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and CNMI lawmakers of the need to amend the existing law to clarify its authority over cable companies.

"The commission has placed into the hands of the Commonwealth policymakers the question of whether it would serve the public interest for the quality of MCV's service, customer complaints and the reasonableness of its first tier rates, including surcharges such as that announced by MCV, to be subject to regulation by the commission," said Calabrese.

He said the commission awaits the outcome of this policy decision and stands ready to offer its cooperation on the matter.

MCV Broadband earlier claimed

that the move is also based on the Communication Act of 1934, which was updated by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, providing the federal framework for regulation of the cable television industry.

PUC said cable operators are subject to the commission's jurisdiction under Article 10. MCV disagreed, asserting that the commission lacks the jurisdiction to regulate it. A detailed review of this assertion was then undertaken by PUC in which it said MCV was invited but refused to participate.

Article 10 of the commission's enabling legislation authorizes it to regulate the rates of any cable television company doing business in the CNMI.

By order dated Dec. 19, 2008, the

commission established Docket 09-04 to begin its regulation of MCV Broadband, including review of its basic tier rates, quality of service, and to establish a process by which customer complaints would be administered.

Calabrese, in response to MCV's assertion, said the commission's consultant had recommended that it would be prudent for Article 10 to be amended to clarify that the commission is authorized to regulate cable television companies.

After a review of the consultant's recommendation, the commission resolved that further activity in docket 09-04 would be suspended until its enabling legislation is amended to establish the jurisdictional authority, which is necessary to regulate MCV and to assess it for the cost of regulation.

RAHALL

From Page 1

Thousands of foreign workers calling for improved immigration status and other members of the community are expected to join a peaceful assembly on Sunday, 3pm, at the Garapan Fishing Base, to hold an audience with Rahall and other members of the congressional delegation.

The visit of the committee, which has oversight on insular possessions of the U.S., including the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, comes at a critical time, with only a few months before the Nov. 28 start of the Commonwealth's transition to federal immigration system.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has yet to issue, however, federalization regulations on the CNMI-only transitional foreign workers program and foreign investors and students, leaving businesses, guest workers and even the local government in limbo.

Support for an improved immigration status, granting of U.S. permanent residency and a pathway to citizenship are among the issues long-term foreign workers want to take up with the Ra-

hall delegation.

"Since the regulations are not done yet, we want the delegation to help us make sure our requests will be heard and included in the regulations," Rene Reyes, chairman of the Committee on Outreach and Public Information, told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday.

This committee is composed of representatives from many of the foreign worker groups in the CNMI as a show of unity, and was formed to welcome the congressional delegates.

"We will request the delegates to push for the implementation of regulations that will stabilize our presence here and keep our families together. We will also ask the delegates to support improved status for us—either in standalone legislation or in a comprehensive bill for national immigration reform," the group said in a separate statement.

'What's it like in the CNMI'

Robert Schwalbach, chief of staff of Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, confirmed yesterday the arrival of Rahall and Sablan.

In a phone interview, Schwalbach said Rahall's delegation will visit American Samoa and Palau before heading for the CNMI on Saturday,

then to Guam.

Schwalbach, who is currently on Saipan for the congressional delegation visit, said Congress is interested in seeing the federalization regulations produced on time and matched with the intent of Public Law 110-229.

"The purpose of a congressional delegation like this is to look at issues that the committee has responsibility for. In this case, on issues that would have to do with the relationship of the federal government with the territories. In the CNMI, they will be looking at how the transition to federal immigration is proceeding. It's important for the committee to understand what it's like here—the economy, the infrastructure, the people," he said.

Besides Rahall and Sablan, other members of the delegation arriving, according to other sources, are Rep. Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU), Rep. Donna M. Christensen (D-VI), Rep. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega (D-A. Samoa), and ranking Republican member Rep. Henry E. Brown (R-SC). Brian Modeste, staffer for the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife chaired by Bordallo, is also reportedly joining the delegation.

The visiting U.S. lawmakers call on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Monday.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. separately said yesterday that Fitial will be happy to meet with visiting congressional leaders.

"He welcomes such visits and looks forward to the opportunity to meet key federal policy makers and discuss pressing CNMI issues," he said.

United voice

Organizers of Sunday's peaceful assembly expect a huge crowd similar to the December 2007 "unity march." Rahall's delegation is expected to address the assembly.

The 3pm assembly will be at the Garapan Fishing Base across the street from Kristo Rai Church and Horiguchi Building.

Non-immigrants and U.S. citizens are working together to gather all guest workers, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, Freely Associated States citizens, U.S. citizen children of non-immigrant parents, members of the business community, CNMI permanent residents, locals and all others who sympathize with the plight of all non-immigrants in the CNMI.

"The regulations for the implementation of CNMI federalization are not published yet. We can still be heard before Nov. 28 comes," the Committee on Out-

reach and Public Information said.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday she will also be at the assembly.

'Wear white, free rides'

The Committee on Outreach and Public Information said many have asked how many guest workers and other non-immigrant permit holders there are in the CNMI.

"We can show our numbers by attending this assembly. We can also show that there really are many people supporting each other for the betterment of this community," it said.

Assembly organizers encourage everyone attending to wear white during the assembly.

The Saipan City Taxi Association will also be providing free transportation going to the assembly.

The pick up points are in front of Pacific Islands Club (PIC) in San Antonio and in front of Aqua Resort Club in San Roque at 30-minute intervals starting from 1pm until 3pm on Sunday.

Carpooling is also encouraged. Donations of drinking water will also be highly appreciated, according to the committee. For those who want to donate, the committee may be reached at 989-3306.

NMC president refutes allegations of retaliations

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez finally broke her silence on the longstanding issue of employees' nonrenewal of contracts and allegations that she retaliates against some personnel, resulting in their departure from the college.

Fernandez told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that personnel issues being raised against her are merely unfounded allegations of disgruntled employees.

"It is unfortunate that unfounded claims by disgruntled employees are being publicized in the media," she said.

Fernandez's office recently decided to end the services of Language Arts and Humanities Department chair Mark Haag, who believes the president's decision is a form of retaliation, prompted by grievances and complaints he earlier raised against her management. Haag's contract expires on Aug. 13.

Fernandez remains firm in her stance not to discuss personnel issues and contracts, pursu-

ant to Board of Regents policies and applicable laws.

"While we will not discuss individual personnel cases, it is important to emphasize that the college, in dealing with contract renewals, strictly abides by the terms of its contracts with personnel, relevant Board of Regents policy, and all applicable laws," she said, adding that there are many factors that are considered in deciding whether to renew or not renew an employment contract.

These factors, she said, include employee performance, recommendations from supervisors, program level and institutional priorities, and the employee's commitment to its mission of "Students First."

"Retaliation—or any type of retribution—does not play a role in any consideration of an employee's renewal or at any other place at the college. Allegations of retaliation are completely unfounded," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that any individual who feels that he or she has been wronged can use the grievance process that has been put in place by



Fernandez

the NMC board.

"I have even asked the Human Resources Department of NMC to extend their assistance to those who are not familiar with the grievance procedures," she added.

New personnel

The college has confirmed that it has filled four instructor positions and other key vacancies in anticipation of the upcoming Fall semester.

The college also anticipates

executing new contracts for two other instructors in the next few days while the other instructor vacancies are at various stages of the recruitment process.

"I am confident that all these

faculty positions will be filled before the start of the Fall 2009 semester, which begins on Aug. 24. I have no doubt we will have a full slate of instructors prepared to engage our students," Fernandez added.

Ex- courts building super charged with pot possession

The U.S. government filed a criminal case yesterday against former CNMI courts building superintendent Joseph R. Guzman for alleged possession of 19 marijuana plants last year.

Information filed in the U.S. District Court charged the 48-year-old Guzman with one count of misdemeanor.

Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the initial appearance for Guzman for Aug. 6, 2009, at 10:30am.

Guzman and his lawyer, G. Anthony Long, signed a plea agreement yesterday with the U.S. government, represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto.

Under the agreement, the defendant will plead guilty to the charge.

The charge carries a maximum sentence of one year in prison and maximum fine of \$5,000 and \$100 special assessment fee.

Under the agreement, the U.S. government agrees to recommend no more than 30 days in prison on Saipan. The U.S. government also agrees to recommend a fine of \$1,000 and \$100 special assessment fee.

Guzman was found with 19 marijuana plants on July 22, 2008.

Saipan Tribune learned that Drug Enforcement Administration agents used a helicopter to

search for marijuana plants on Saipan during a two-day operation in July 2008.

Sources said the DEA agents took Guzman to the DEA office in Garapan during the operation. A judiciary's van used by the then courts building superintendent was also seized.

A few days after the incident, citing "personal reasons" Guzman resigned from his position. **(Ferdie dela Torre)**

70M-gallon water reservoir for irrigation project pushed

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth wants to build a 70-million gallon water reservoir to address the longstanding plight of farmers on island.

The Commonwealth presented the proposal in a recent legislative conference held in Washington, D.C.

Isidoro T. Cabrera, Commonwealth agriculturist and consultant to the Northern Marianas College-CREES program, said the CNMI is seeking \$3.5 million from federal agencies for this project, which will also include completion of the second phase of the Kagman watershed project.

Saipan Tribune learned that only five deep wells currently help farmers with their irrigation needs, resulting in the limited production of crops and vegetables.

Cabrera described the project as a solution to the farmers' worsening water crisis.

Records show that there are over 70 commercial farmers on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, of which 35 are active in the Kagman area.

Once funding is identified, the water reservoir will be constructed in Kagman where majority of the island's plots are located.

Besides the project's "high production" target, the water reservoir is also expected to reduce the routine activities of farmers and ranchers.

"We're pushing for this proj-

ect because this will bring significant and positive impact to our farmers and to the island as a whole," Isidoro said, adding that many farmers are discouraged from exploring and improving their crop production because of the water concern.

"This problem has been a long time concern of our farmers and if we continue to ignore their plights, everyone will suffer because we depend on their production. We're putting all our efforts to make this thing happen for all of us," he said.

Cabrera confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that they also met with Rep. Gregorio Sablan (D-MP) and discussed the activities of the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation Districts, including the recent funding received by the CNMI under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that allocated \$4.15 million for the Kagman watershed project.

Cabrera wants to work with Sablan to seek more conservation funding and technical assistance for the CNMI.

The 2009 Legislative Conference, held on July 19 to 21, had over 3,000 attendees from all U.S. states, commonwealths and territories.

Cabrera said he also asked some U.S. senators to support conservation programs and alternative energy technology as well as invasive species eradication for the Commonwealth—"all issues of interest to the CNMI."

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EMO warns of high surf, dangerous currents

The CNMI Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches due to a swath of sustained west winds in the Philippine Sea that is expected to produce large west swells for much of this week.

The swell will continue to produce hazardous surf on west

facing reefs through Thursday night, based on information received from National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled by EMO.

A high surf advisory is now in effect until 6am Friday. A small craft advisory for hazardous seas remains was in effect until 6pm last night.

The public is urged to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along west facing reefs, as rip currents will be life threatening.

According to the EMO, high surf and dangerous rip current will affect exposed reefs and beaches. Expect hazardous surf of 9-12 feet on west facing reefs today.

The surf should subside slightly tonight but is still expected to remain hazardous at 8-11 feet at least through Thursday night.

Rota, Saipan, and Tinian waters will experience southwest winds of 10-15 knots today, with wind waves of 2 feet or less and a west swell of 8-10 feet. There will also be scattered

showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.

Tonight, southwest winds will be 15 knots, with wind waves of 3 feet and a west swell of 8-9 feet, plus scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, southwest winds will be 10-15 knots.

Wind waves will reach 3 feet, with a west swell of 8 feet and a slight chance of thunderstorms.

On Thursday, southwest wind will be 10-15 knots. Wind waves will be 3 feet, with a west swell of 8 feet. Friday's west wind will be 10-15 knots, wind waves of 2 feet or less, and a west swell of 7-8 feet. *(Saipan Tribune)*

RP sets 10 days of mourning for Aquino

The Philippines will officially observe a 10-day period of national mourning for the late former President Corazon "Cory" C. Aquino, according to a statement issued by the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan.

Aquino died Aug. 1, 2009 at the age of 76.

Asia's first female president, Aquino led the 1986 "People Power" uprising that deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos. She was installed as President on the morning of Feb. 25, 1986, at the Club Filipino in San Juan, Metro Manila.

Declared *Time Magazine*

Woman of the Year in 1986, Aquino also received numerous awards and citations, among which are the J. William Fulbright Prize for international understanding from the Fulbright Association, joining past recipients such as Jimmy Carter and Nelson Mandela in 1996.

In 1998, she was conferred the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding. Last year, she was named by the Europe-based A Different View as one of the 15 Champions of World Democracy, along with Abraham H. Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., Lech Walesa,



Aquino

Award for Political Leadership. She was conferred many honorary doctorates by universities in the Philippines, Asia and the United States.

Her health deteriorated last March 2008, as she was diagnosed with colon cancer.

Aquino will be buried beside her husband Ninoy at the Manila Memorial Park in a private ceremony.

The public is invited to visit the Philippine Consulate General at the 5th

and Vaclav Havel. Last year, she was given the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize and the United Nations Development Fund for Woman Noel

floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan during office hours 9am-4pm for the signing of the condolence book for the late former President. *(PR)*

Man allegedly high on drugs beats wife

An employee of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. who was allegedly high on drugs forcibly brought his wife to a beach where he beat her up Saturday morning.

The wife told police that Roland Joseph Sablan, 42, became enraged at seeing hickies on her neck when in fact he was the one who made them.

Sablan was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. A \$10,000 cash bail was initially imposed for his temporary liberty. He was set to appear before Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman yesterday afternoon.

Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero stated in his report that on Saturday at 9:25am, a police officer called the Department of Public Safety to report a domestic violence incident at a house in San Antonio.

Leon Guerrero said it was the victim's daughter who flagged a passing police car and asked the police to stop her father from harassing her mother.

The officer proceeded to the house where he saw the victim crying. Sablan was later arrested. Last May 11, Sablan also allegedly beat up the victim, causing her to suffer a black eye. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD FOR A REMOVAL ACTION AT SAIPAN MAYOR'S OFFICE DRUM SITE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") announces that the Administrative Record for the Saipan Mayor's Office Drum (Athe Site@) located in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI") is available for public review and comment.

Various drums have been dumped in different locations around the island in the last couple of years. CNMI Division Environmental Quality transported the drums for storage in the Saipan Mayor's Office Heavy Equipment Storage Shop with a total of approximately twenty-eight drums containing mixed wastes, including solvents, petroleum wastes and heavy metals. Many of the drums were degraded and others are budging to near rupture. Saipan is subject to extreme weather conditions and typhoons. Excessive heat, humidity or a typhoon could have destroyed the drums and released their contents, posing an imminent risk to the employees of the Saipan Mayor's Office and the marine environment. EPA has classified and transferred the drums to the U.S. mainland for treatment or disposal at a disposal facility. EPA determined that actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances, had they not been addressed, could have presented substantial endangerment to public health, welfare, or the environment.

The Administrative Record is a file that includes all documents upon which the EPA has based its decision to conduct a removal action at the Site. EPA encourages community members to review the Administrative Record and submit comments during the 30-day comment period, which begins with the publication of this notice and ends 30 days later. Copies of the Administrative Record will be available for public review at the following location:

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
Beach Road & Insatto Street
P.O. Box 501092
Saipan, CNMI 96950

Hours:
Monday – Friday: 10am – 6pm
Saturday : 9am – 4pm
P. Sunday/Holidays: Closed
Superfund Records Center
95 Hawthorne Street, Suite 403S
San Francisco, CA 94105

Hours: Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Call for an appointment at (415) 536-2000

Written comments on the Administrative Record should be sent to:

J. Wong (SFD-9)
U.S. EPA, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
8/4/09

CNS-1656686#



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Regular meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting:
 1. May 19, 2009
 2. June 4, 2009
 3. July 1, 2009
 4. July 7, 2009
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - A. Report of the Chairman
 1. ROC No. 09-007
 - B. Report of the Administrator / Correspondence
 1. ROA No. 09-007
 - a) Status Updates
 - C. Report of the Comptroller
 1. Financials
 - a) NMIRF
 - b) GHLTF
 - c) WCC
 2. Drawdown Requests
 3. CGECU Status Update
 - D. Reports of the Committees
 1. Finance & Investment Committee
 2. Operations & Personnel Committee
 3. Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee
 4. GH&L and WCC Committee
 - E. Reports of the Investment Director
 1. Status of Investment/Market Condition
 2. Report of Housing Loan Program
 - F. Communications
 1. Internal Auditor Reports
 - G. Other Matters
- IV. LEGAL MATTERS
 - A. Reports of the Legal Counsels
 1. Report of the Board Counsel
 - a) Lawsuit
 - b) Other Legal Matters
 2. Report of the In-house Counsel
 - a) Update on Administrative Appeals
 3. Report of the Hearing Officer
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 1. BR 08-001 Matters
 - a) Pension Application Matters
 - b) P.L. 15-98 / Refunds
 - c) Disability Applicants
 2. Board Resolution – Non-Recognition of Post-Retirement Adoptions
 3. Board Resolution – Proportionate Pensions
 4. Board Resolution – Cease of Refunds
 5. Non Full-Time Student/Drop-Out Recoupment
 6. Budgets
 - a) FY 2009
 - b) FY 2010
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Request for Exemption – J.B. Joyner
 2. Life Insurance Coverage – Terminal Members
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
 - A. Announcements
 - B. Next Meeting
 - C. Adjournment

/s/ JUAN T. GUERRERO
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB09-OHS-072**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 27, 2009 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“LEASE OF A WAREHOUSE SPACE TO BE
USE AS A CBRNE FACILITY ON SAIPAN FOR THE
OFFICE OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

LOCAL BIDDERS PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE TO LOCAL BIDDERS BECAUSE THE FEDERAL GRANTOR AGENCY, THE U.S. OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY, HAS CERTIFIED THAT SUCH PREFERENCE IS IN CONFLICT WITH THE AGENCY'S GRANT CONDITIONS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).

/s/ PATRICK J. TENORIO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DPH/WIC-129 (A-D)**

BID SUBMISSION: AUGUST 13, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.
BID OPENING: AUGUST 13, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) LAPTOP COMPUTERS,
ONE (1) LCD TV 37”, TWO (2) WACOM DIGITAL
EDITING TABLETS, AND MISC. NETWORK AND MIS
NEED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH-
W.I.C. PROGRAM”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Inouye seeks wage hike delay for NMI, A. Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (The Samoa News/PIR)—Rep. Eni Faleomavaega announced Sunday night that U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye personally called him to say that he had introduced provisions in the FY2010 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill to delay the next minimum wage increase until after the U.S. Government Accountability Office completes its report on the impact of the minimum wage increases on American Samoa and the CNMI.

Faleomavaega said the Senate Appropriations Committee—chaired by Inouye—marked up and favorably reported out the bill on Thursday.

During a meeting yesterday held at U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka's office, Faleomavaega said he updated Gov. Togiola Tulafono on the latest development regarding the delay in the minimum wage.

The next wage hike is set for May 2010 and Faleomavaega

said in June that U.S. Rep. George Miller and U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy “have agreed to postpone the May 2010 increase until September 30, 2010.” He also said at the time they will ask Inouye to add language to the supplemental appropriations bill in support of the delay.

Miller and Kennedy chair their respective committees with oversight on labor issues.

“I want to thank Senator Inouye for his support in postponing the next minimum wage increase from May 2010 until September 2010,” Faleomavaega said in a statement Sunday night. “This four month delay, we believe, will provide Congress with the time it needs to respond to the findings of the GAO, and postpone further increases, if necessary.”

He said Miller and Kennedy

had agreed to this delay back in May of this year but had no legislative vehicle to move the language forward.

“Their offices and mine turned to Senator Inouye to make this happen, and the Senator promised he would help us,” he said. “I also thank Senator Inouye for taking over an hour of his time on Wednesday of this week to meet with the Governor and me

to discuss the serious challenges American Samoa is facing.”

“I was invited to the meeting by the Senator and appreciated that the Senator accepted my request to also invite StarKist and Bumble Bee representatives,” he said.

The congressman noted that others attending the meeting with the governor were the Fono leaders, Secretary of Samoan Affairs, three District Gover-

nors, and Carlos Sanchez.

“The governor presented the [minimum wage] petition,” said Faleomavaega, adding that he requested support for his American Samoa Protection of Industry, Resources and Employment proposal.

“Senator Inouye made it clear [during the meeting] that Congress will not make a final decision about minimum wage at this time until the GAO completes its study, and the Senator advised that American Samoa speak with one voice.”

“Last month, when I returned

to American Samoa to seek input from our local leaders regarding ASPIRE, I urged that we stand united. If we are divided, we will fail. Now that Senator Inouye has reiterated this message, I am hopeful that we can strike a balance and do what is best for our business community and our workers,” he said.

During the meeting with Inouye, Faleomavaega noted that he didn't know anything about the petition to U.S. President Barack Obama until reading about it in the newspaper.

Faleomavaega said that it was

only during his meeting early this week with the governor and his delegation that he received a copy of the petition.

“I thanked the Governor for giving me a copy but until I have an opportunity to review it, I cannot comment at this time about the contents or substance of the petition,” he said. “However, regardless of the contents, I do believe that we can find a way to help our workers keep up with the higher costs of living while also being helpful to our business community. To this end, I will continue to reach out to our local leaders and do everything I can to protect and further the interests of our people,” he said.



Inouye

Ex-ConCon member seeks Rota House seat

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Teresita Apatang Santos, a member of the 1995 Constitutional Convention, will try her luck in the arena of public service after filing her candidacy Monday last week at the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Santos, who filed her papers with family members, will be running as an independent candidate for Rota's seat in the House of Representative this November. In her campaign platform, Santos identified five key areas as among her priorities: Economy; Health, Education, and Public Safety; Youth; Retirement Fund; and Land Matters.

In revitalizing the island's economy, her plan of action include tapping federal grants that would translate to job opportunities and economic growth, alternative energy sources to reduce current power rates, and exploring financial assistance for existing revenue generating industries on Rota.

Santos seeks to reduce shipping costs on imports and exports of consumer goods and to expand the marketing of local produce to Guam and other islands. The former constitutional conventionalist also vowed to work closely with island leaders to enhance sister-city relationships with Japan and tap the Japanese silver market.

With her theme “Action is the Key to Positive Change,” Santos believes that her wide array of experiences, capabilities, and commitment to serve the people would help her plan of action materialize for the betterment of the community.

“We must invest in Rota's future to stimulate and motivate our people on our beautiful island to help build and establish a thriving local economy that



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Aspiring congresswoman from Rota Teresita Apatang Santos, left, smiles as she submits her petition to become a candidate in the November election to election officer Julita Villagomez, right. The former constitutional conventionalist filed her candidacy with members of her family and friends last week.

would aggressively compete with our neighbor islands in the hopes of placing Rota amongst the top producers, exporters, and income earners in the Marianas,” she said.

Additionally, she emphasized the need to upgrade the Rota Health Center's facility, medical and dental equipment, and personnel to assure quality healthcare services and be Medicare-certified.

“We must also explore avenues to equip our young generation with the necessary tools to improve training and skills in preparation to becoming productive and responsible citizens in our community,” she added.

Santos said the protection of the Retirement Fund and retirement contributions must also be sought for the interest of current and potential government retirees. Santos vows to come up with legislation that would address all these concerns.

Currently, Santos serves as the director of the Department of Public Lands, Rota District Office, where she admitted that the handling of land uses and compensation, and homesteading need to be addressed. She vowed to seek funding for monetary compensa-

tion to consummate all pending land exchanges to affected private landowners, whose lands were acquired by the government for public purposes.

“I will also enact legislation for the release of all agricultural homestead lots in designated areas, including public lands that were occupied and actively farmed prior to the establishment of the wildlife critical habitat,” she said.

In addition, Santos said she would seek funding to provide financial assistance for current and potential college students, and to ensure that the Public School System is provided with adequate funding to meet student needs.

Vocational institutions that could provide and enhance skills of the island's youths will also be tapped to boost the condition of Rota residents.

Santos has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and has served the following positions before deciding to seek Rota's House seat: classroom teacher, deputy clerk of court, disaster control representative, chief of staff of Rota Municipal Council, adjunct faculty of NMC Rota, and resident director of the Rota Health Center.

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2 cops attend exchange program in Vanuatu

Two female officers of the CNMI Department of Public Safety recently traveled off island to attend the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Women's Advisory Network's annual exchange program in Vanuatu. The purpose of this exchange program is to share information, network, and familiarize the participants with the hosting island's law enforcement operations.

The exchange program is open to female law enforcers only. This year's representatives from the CNMI were Saipan Police Officer II Mary Lou Tanaka and Police Officer I Raquel Ogomoro. The hosting island was Vanuatu. This year's participants included members from island nations like Kiribati, Palau, Fiji, Pohnpei, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Cook Islands, and Guam.

Tanaka and Ogomoro departed Saipan for Vanuatu on July 3 and returned July 25. During their three-week stay in Vanuatu they were able to compare and contrast the differences in how police of-

ficers operate in Vanuatu.

One example was that police officers in Vanuatu prosecute their own cases.

The Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police is a non-profit organization made up of police services in the Pacific. The PICP works to enhance and improve policing and communication in the Pacific by promoting and providing a voice on law enforcement and social policy concerns. It also provides a forum to share information and intelligence to counter transnational crime in the region.

Membership is open to national police services of Pacific Island countries and territories within the region. Currently, there are 21 members ranging from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the north, New Zealand in the south, French Polynesia to the east, and the Republic of Palau to the west (at present Fiji is suspended from the PICP). There are more than 75,000 police officers within member countries and territories.

A full meeting of the organization is conducted yearly with all Pacific Islands chiefs of police attending, with executive groups and project teams continuing the work throughout the year with the support of a full time Secretariat.

This year's conference brought together more than 45 police women from 18 Pacific countries and was hosted by the Cook Islands WAN group, made up of local police women.

The exchange program, established at the 2006 WAN conference in the Solomon Islands, will see six exchanges this year between Vanuatu, the CNMI, Guam, PNG, Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati (one reserve). Each exchange lasts three weeks and enables participants to experience policing in other parts of the Pacific.

The theme of this year's conference was youth crime in the Pacific.

WAN delegates will make recommendations in their country reports, which will go to the annual chiefs of police confer-

ence in Papua New Guinea in September. The theme of that conference will be youth crime.

The next WAN meeting will be in Samoa next year. (Jason T. Tarkong, acting PIO)

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Kiwis fix rusting Samoa cannons

By Lua SaleiAPIA, Samoa (Samoalife News/PIR)—Poor maintenance or the lack of it is behind the repairs that were carried out recently by the New Zealand naval forces on the ceremonial saluting cannons at Mulinu'u. The three cannons were officially handed over to the Minister of Police, Toleafoa Fa'afisi, by the New Zealand naval officials yesterday on Board the HMNZS Canterbury at the Matautu -- tai wharf. "The firing pins and a few springs had to be replaced," one naval officer told Newsline about the repair work. The guns were removed from location behind the Lands and Titles Administration building at Mulinu'u and taken abroad the HMNZS Canterbury for needed repairs in New Zealand a month ago.

Samoa culture celebrated in Honolulu

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (The Samoa News/PIR)—Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann has proclaimed Aug. 2-8 as Samoan Heritage week in Honolulu and the one-page proclamation will be read during tomorrow's combined church service at the Neil Blaisdell Concert Hall at downtown Honolulu. American Samoa and Hawaii are closely linked by common bonds of Polynesian and historical ties to the U.S. and Samoan migration to Hawaii has continued for more than 50 years.

\$141 million Cook islands budget up 52 percent

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR)—The new NZ\$215.5 million [US\$141.5] annual budget has been described as the 'mother of all budgets' by finance minister Sir Terepai Maoate. The minister said the 2009-10 budget, tabled in parliament yesterday, was probably the most difficult to put together. The budget represents an increase of over 52 percent on last year's NZ\$141 million [US\$92.5 million] budget. Sir Terepai says the major contributor to the increase is the expenditure funded through new loans this year. Government plans to spend NZ\$82.5 million in loans received from China and the Asian Development Bank this year on development and infrastructure such as the resealing of Rarotonga roads.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 4, 1999

CUC says no to debt forgiveness to govt

Saying they are being generous by not disconnecting utility services to the government, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board Chair Rosario Elameto yesterday opposed a recommendation to write off portion of the debt it has accumulated over the past six months. She said the government must settle its bills amounting to \$6.8 million based on an easy payment plan that will be worked out between CUC and the Department of Finance to avoid disconnection. "Commercial and residential customers are disconnected for (overdue charges) less than \$100," Elameto said in a statement. "The government owes our utility \$6.8 million and customers want to know why the government hasn't been disconnected."

Less patrol cars for Fiscal 2000

Patrol car operations for Fiscal 2000 may be affected after the budget for car lease has been cut from \$1.1 million to just over \$800,000, according to the Department of Public Safety. The Office of Budget and Management has also drastically reduced the department's budget for fuel to \$18,000 for FY 2000 from the current appropriation of \$147,000. DPS burns approximately \$13,000 worth of fuel every month. Maintenance of patrol cars alone costs \$50,000 a year. The leases for patrol cars will expire in December 1999.

Aug. 4, 2000

Customs chief to rid corrupt personnel

Customs Director Joe Mafnas has pledged to rid the division of corrupt personnel due to concerns raised on their possible connivance with unscrupulous businessmen in the smuggling of imported items into the Northern Marianas. "We are in continued monitoring of our customs officers assigned at both the airport and the seaport because we do not want the Division's image be tainted by corrupt personnel who succumb to bribes," Mr. Mafnas said. He said, however, that the problem is still within manageable levels although he is concerned that a concrete action should be immediately taken because these customs officers have access, thereby, can maneuver the system.

Officials inspect Kagman school

The Public School System conducted yesterday a final inspection of the newly constructed Kagman Elementary School following reports of funding problems which delayed its opening. Claiming that funding sources has already been identified, Ed Tenorio, special assistant for budget and management, explained that currently the Office of the Governor and the PSS are working closely to discuss possible refining of fund allocation since the elementary school is set to open a month before the fiscal year begins. "There is no funding problem. We are currently discussing with PSS the additional funding they have requested and we're looking at some funding sources. This is an important opening and one of the governor's top priorities is education," said Mr. Tenorio.

Aug. 4, 2003

FBI exposes mafia-like group

Business methods include violence, extortion, high-interest loans. Federal authorities have uncovered a mafia-like group that operates an illegal casino in Garapan and resorts to physical violence and intimidation using guns and sticks to collect on high-interest loans owed by the establishment's patrons. The Federal Bureau of Investigation uncovered the existence of the illegal casino and its extortionary methods with the arrest of two Chinese men. Wanxiang Chen-also known as "Ah Xiang" and allegedly part-owner of the illegal casino-and Wei Jun Chen, who is also called "Xiao Di" and "Little Brother," were arrested on a charge of conspiracy to collect extensions of credit by extortionate means.

King to resign from Tinian labor post

Janet King will be resigning from her post as resident head of the Tinian Department of Labor to pursue a law degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law. King confirmed in an e-mail interview yesterday that she will be resigning from her job effective August 8. King, a former Miss Northern Marianas Universe 2001, took over as resident department head of the Labor Department on Tinian in May 2002. "It has been a difficult decision to leave behind many things: Family, friends and a promising future. However, it has always been my goal in life, for as long as I can remember, to return to the Commonwealth after obtaining a law degree and helping our people in that capacity," she said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela, left, poses with police officers Raquel Ogomoro, second from left, and Mary Lou Tanaka, second from right, and Patrol commander Capt. Lawrence M. Camacho.

Magnitude-5.1 quake shakes off waters of Guam

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A moderate earthquake has struck in waters off the island of Guam, but there are no reports of any damage or injury.

The U.S. Geological Survey

says in a preliminary report that the magnitude-5.1 quake struck Monday at 11:47 a.m. (0147 GMT) at a depth of about 21 miles (34 kilometers). It was centered about 100 miles southwest

of Hagatna and 230 miles (370 kilometers) southwest of Saipan.

A dispatcher from the Guam Police Department says there have been no reports of injuries or damages on the island.

orientation with their child.

■ First day of school on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009.

FOR TEACHERS

■ Statewide Learning Community Training, Aug. 17-21, 2009, from 8am to 3pm at Saipan Southern High School:

■ CCLHS and Language Arts LC: Aug. 17-19, 2009

■ Science/Health LC: Aug. 17-21, 2009

■ Social Studies LC: Aug. 21, 2009

■ Helping English Language Learners (K-12) Succeed in School PD, Aug. 24-28, 2009, from 8am to 3pm at SSHS

■ Teachers & Staff Reporting Day: Aug. 31, 2009, at 7:30am. (PR)

GTC Elementary School events

FOR PARENTS

■ Enrollment: Enrollment at GTC is closed due to combined classes to accommodate construction. Enrollment is still open for Kindergarten students only.

■ 3 weeks of Summer School, Aug. 10-28, 2009 from 7:30am to 12pm in room D3.

■ Special meeting, Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009 at 5PM at GTC. We are urging parents to attend this important meeting to discuss changes in class schedules to accommodate construction project.

■ Public hearing on reprogramming of the Community Development Block Grant on

Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009 at 6pm at GTC. The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30pm on Aug. 7, 2009 at NMHC office in Garapan, PO Box 500514, Saipan, MP, 96950. Oral comments may be given to Zenie Mafnas at (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689 or 9447. We highly encourage the GTC parents and the community to attend this public hearing.

■ Kindergarten orientation on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, at 5pm at GTC in Kindergarten Room, B4. All parents of kindergarten students are urged to attend this

Tree planting to reduce sediment entering Laolao Bay

In an effort to help protect Laolao Bay Watershed and reduce the sediment entering Laolao Bay, several community groups are inviting the public to help plant trees around the area at a one-day event.

The Laolao Bay Tree Planting Day will take place on Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009, from 8am to 12pm. Volunteers are asked to meet at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at 7:45am.

For more information about

participating, contact Sharisse Rivera at 664-8500 or email, rockistashaw@gmail.com.

The Laolao Revegetation Project aims to protect the Laolao Bay Watershed to reduce the amount of sediment accumulating on the adjacent coral reefs. A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common point, in this case Laolao Bay. Development and illegal clearing and burning in watersheds increase storm flow, which

leads to erosion of soils that can damage corals. The increase of water flow can also lead to the increased water contaminants that can be toxic to living things.

Seven acres of tree saplings were planted at the site in 2006. Over 800 saplings and 250 cuttings consisting of six native species were planted and nearly

5,000 native seeds were broadcast, including three garbage bags full of softball sizes *Barringtonia asiaticaseeds*, all of which sprouted.

Six species of tree saplings were planted that year, including the Sosugi (*Acacia Confusa*), Kamachili

(*Pithecolobium dulce*), Banalo (*Thespesia populnea*), Gaogao flores (*Erythrina sp.*), Daok (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), and Pago (*Hibiscus*).

According to Angelo Vilagomez of Beautify CNMI, the survival of the trees that were planted three years ago will indicate the kind of trees suitable for the area. The event sponsors will determine what

kinds of trees will be planted this year in partnership with Department of Lands and Natural Resources forester Vic Guerrero.

The event is sponsored by the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management Office, Beautify CNMI, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Coral Reef Initiative. (PR)

NMC offers short-term classes to improve English language skills

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to interested individuals who wish to improve their English language skills.

The course will teach participants the fundamentals of the English language such as enunciation, pronunciation and dialogue. The course also aims to help participants understand and master grammatical concepts necessary for interactive

of the college's mission to provide customized, continuing educational and professional

development opportunities in response to community needs. (NMC)

Free NMC information session on Thursday

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free all-day information session this Thursday, Aug. 6 at the NMC Student Center in Building J at the NMC As Terlaje campus. Individuals can attend the all-day event at anytime between 9am to 7pm.

Those who want to further their education and advance their careers are encouraged to attend the event and meet with representatives from the different degree and certificate programs, who will be available to answer questions.

Counseling, financial aid, admissions, and other NMC staff will be available to answer questions and to assist in the admissions and financial aid process.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice,

hospitality management, and more. It also offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

Those who attend the event qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for the upcoming Fall 2009 semester—a savings of about \$75. In addition, after speaking with NMC staff and receiving their

fee waivers individuals can take placement tests on that same day.

This free information session is open to everyone, including high school graduates, high school students and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1528, or log on to www.nmc-net.edu. (NMC)

CONTACT INFO

Community Development Institute
Building P, NMC Campus, As Terlaje
Tel: 234-5498 ext.
1010/05/14/19/30
E-mail: johnm@nmcnet.edu

skills development. Throughout the course, students will practice these concepts in oral dialogue and conversation exercises.

The classes, which are designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills, are geared around actual work-force needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers.

The August/September course schedule and fees are as follows:

■ Dates: Aug. 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 31 and Sept. 2, 4, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21

■ Schedule: 4:30pm – 6pm (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)

■ Room: TBA

■ Fee: \$300

It is recommended that all interested individuals register before the start of the first day of class. Certificates of attendance and competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class. A discount price may also be awarded to partnering entities.

To register, or to obtain more information, visit the CDI Office in Building P at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje. You can also call 234-5498 ext. 1010/05/14/19/30, or e-mail John Manalo at johnm@nmc-net.edu.

The course is offered as part



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 10 birthday to Darienne P. Concepcion! We wish you all the best in life and pray for many more birthdays to come. We love you. Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Jada and the twins.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



JOETEN WINNER

Joeten's 60th Giveaways Extravaganza winner for July, Gerald Reyes, winner of a brand new bush cutter, is shown in photo with James Sablan, Price Costco manager; Dolly Muna, Joeten Department Store manager; JJ Tenorio, Joeten Wholesale manager; and Gemma Villanueva, Joeten Susupe market buyer. Not in photo is Maria Reyes Farnsworth, who won a Zojirushi rice cooker.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-09-024

A&E AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SAIPAN WELL ISOLATION PROJECT

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from qualified architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the A&E and Construction Management Services for the Construction of Saipan Well Isolation Project, located on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) Act of 2009. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of funding and approval from EPA.

The key elements of the Design are the following:

1. Design of new transmission lines to connect direct feed wells from different well fields into existing water tank storages to meet all federal safe drinking water standards and requirements. This shall include all the appurtenant valves, fittings and asphalt restoration.
2. Verify if existing pumps will meet new pumping requirement and if not, design and size new pump requirements.
3. Calculate and design new electrical load requirements.
4. Provide hydraulic calculations, cost estimates and construction plans and specifications.
5. Prepare, submit, and secure all necessary project permits for construction.

The complete design shall be completed within **120 days** from the date of the Notice to Proceed (NTP).

The scope of Construction Management services shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Conduct pre-construction conference with contractor(s), review contractor's insurance bond forms, EEO and Labor requirements, consult with CUC and advise on acceptability of subcontractors, and provide list of submittals and requirements.
2. Monitor daily construction activities in compliance with the technical provisions of the contract and specifications, applicable codes and regulations. Make daily site inspections during the course of the project to monitor construction related activities.
3. Provide complete construction administrative functions.
4. Review and approve submittals, working drawings by the construction contractor for general compliance with the intent of the construction contract drawings and specifications. Critical review of the plans and specifications for errors, discrepancies, construction contractor verifications and potential conflicts having impact of the construction activity and schedules.
5. Review construction contractor's application for payment in conformance with the established progress on site and provide a recommendation to CUC regarding quantities of materials in place for partial and final payments.
6. Provide periodic reports, pictures of progress of the project highlighting the critical and pending items and the construction contractor's compliance with approved schedule.
7. Maintain a systematic set of construction files including correspondence, submittals, change orders, claims files, progress payments and test reports which shall be handed over to the CUC at the end of this contract.
8. Conduct weekly project meetings with the construction contractor and CUC to discuss work progress and any concerns relating to the construction.
9. Witness field tests performed by the construction contractor or his representative for compliance with the contract drawings and specifications.
10. Review close-out documents including as-builts, O&M, liens, and all other required documents in the specification.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Qualification of the Principal and Proposed Staff (40 Points)
 - Design: 25 Points
 - Construction Management: 15 Points
- Experience in Similar Projects (40 Points)
 - Design: 25 Points
 - Construction Management: 15 Points
- Proposed Project Approach (10 Points)
- Time Frame of Work (10 Points)

Interested parties may pick up the complete Scope of Work at the CUC Water & Wastewater Engineering Section, Room 18, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, during normal working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). All inquiries concerning this RFP shall be directed to Larry Manacop of the CUC Water & Wastewater Division, at (670) 235-7025 – 7032, extension 150.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-09-024" to Manny Sablan, CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, Room 4, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **4:00 p.m., local time, on August 20, 2009**. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in the bid proposal if to do so shall be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of the CUC.

ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director, CUC

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Warming relations

You wouldn't know it by the intense focus on health-care reform and on race over the past two weeks, but during about that same period Washington and Beijing made strides to bridge their divide over reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Just last week, China and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding that commits them "to respond vigorously to the challenges of energy security, climate change and environmental protection through ambitious domestic action and international cooperation." That might sound like feel-good diplo-speak, especially when there's a dearth of details in the rest of the memorandum. But when you consider where relations had been before, the events of the past two weeks have been promising.

The increased activity is happening in the looming shadow of the upcoming December talks in Copenhagen on a successor to the 1999 Kyoto Protocol. Both the United States and China have made assurances that they are not crafting an agreement separate from the final global climate accord. But because together the two nations account for 42 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, their discussions will play an enormous role in the success or failure of Copenhagen.

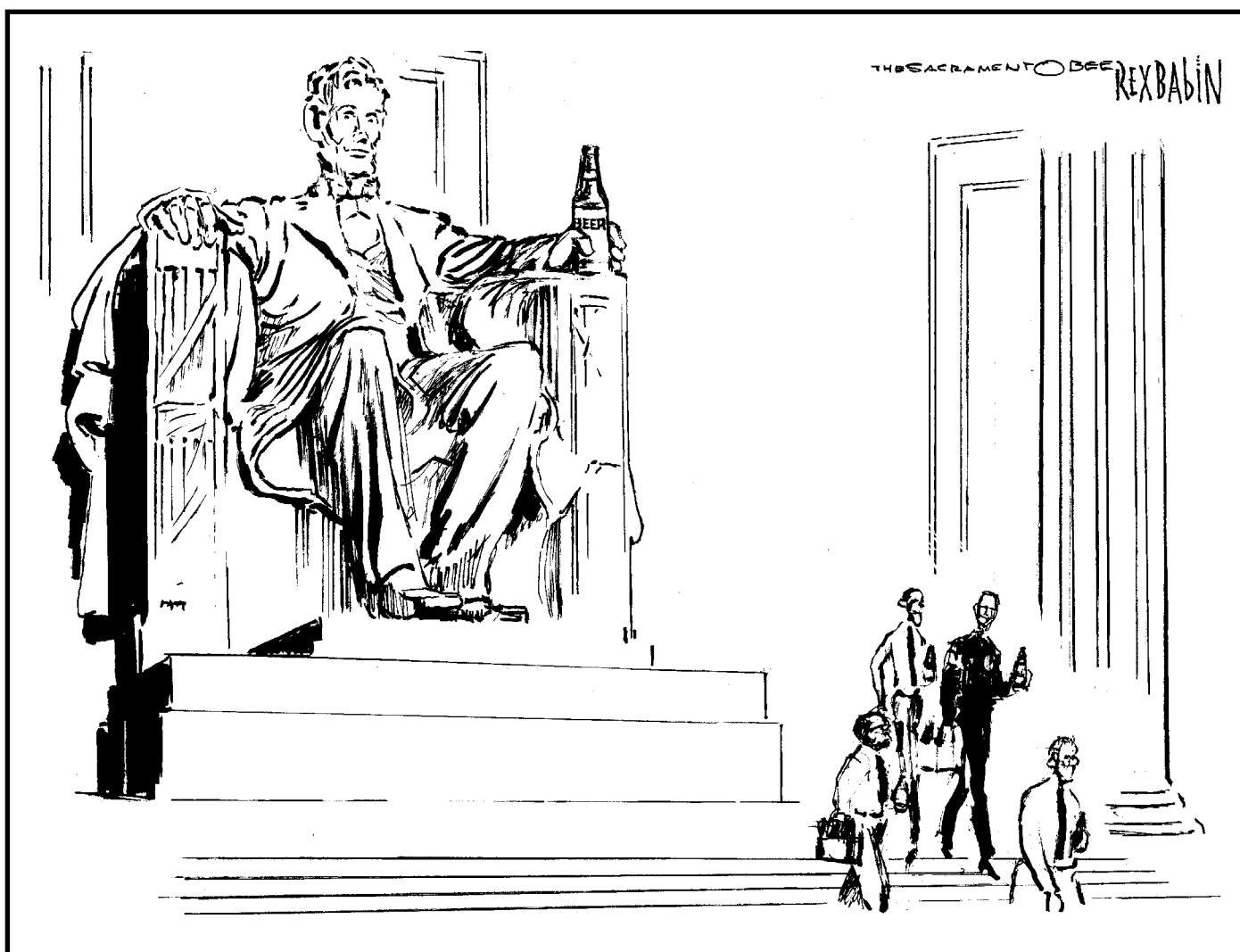
This is a far cry from what happened under President George W. Bush. After spending most of his eight years questioning the science buttressing predictions of catastrophic climate change, Mr. Bush created the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF). Nevertheless, there wasn't much progress — so much so that the Chinese government took to leaking its frustration to its compliant press.

That's not the case today. The Obama administration treats China not as a supplicant but as a strategic partner. Under Mr. Bush, the MEF was viewed as a policy stepchild. Under Mr. Obama, it has cabinet clout as secretaries Hillary Rodham Clinton (State), Gary Locke (Commerce) and Steven Chu (Energy) have all jumped in to bring China along as a key ally in the process. Recently, Chu and Locke, both Chinese Americans, left Beijing with a pact to establish a joint clean-energy research facility to create and test carbon capture and sequestration and other clean technologies that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Significant disagreements remain. The Chinese want the United States and other developed nations to commit to firm midterm emissions-reduction targets. They also want those countries to provide substantial contributions to a fund that would help developing nations address rising sea levels and other consequences of global warming. The United States wants developing nations such as China and India to commit to mandatory actions as part of a global agreement. They were exempt from the Kyoto accord.

While the clock to Copenhagen is ticking, there will be a number of opportunities to resolve these issues. In September, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will host a day of climate talks on the eve of the U.N. General Assembly. Mr. Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao will head to Pittsburgh for the G-20 summit a few days later. And then the two leaders will meet in Beijing in November. The hope is that these meetings will fill in many of the blanks with definitive, concrete actions and decisions. There's still a long way to go, but at least China and the United States are finally working together.

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Time to raise rights issues with North Korea

The defunct six-party talks in which the United States, South Korea, Japan, Russia and China participated focused almost exclusively on North Korea's nuclear weapons program. But with a struggle for succession underway in Pyongyang and some of the country's internal controls reportedly beginning to erode, it's time to rethink the near-exclusion of human rights from the U.S.-North Korean dialogue.

The fear of raising human rights issues has been based largely on the belief that doing so would distract from efforts to disable North Korea's nuclear weapons program. But past negotiations focused narrowly on nuclear weapons have not produced sustainable outcomes, and they are unlikely to do so in the future unless they are grounded in a broader and more solid framework. Discussions about access to North Korea and the freer movement of people, information and ideas across its borders are needed to reinforce nuclear verification and inspections. The nature of the North Korean regime has bearing on its conduct at home and abroad.

Concern has also been expressed that North Korea could become defiant, or even implode, if rights became a focus. But a carefully developed strategy to incorporate human rights into talks could avoid the kind of collapse that could overwhelm the South with refugees and rehabilitation costs by seeking to gradually pry open North Korea's closed society. This would involve identifying the human rights issues where progress might be achievable and moving forward on those areas first.

Families separated by the Korean War and, more recently, by famine, extreme poverty or political persecution in the North could be a starting point. Although North Korea has allowed inter-Korean talks about family reunions, these have produced only brief visits to the North for 1,600 of the 125,000 South Koreans who have applied. The International Committee of the Red Cross, which has expert tracing and reunification facilities and is present in Pyongyang, should be brought in to speed up responses to requests, especially from people over 70 for whom further delays could mean never seeing their families again.

Another achievable goal could be the liberation of the children and grandchildren of political prisoners in labor camps. Not only are North Koreans arbitrarily confined for "wrong thinking," "wrong knowledge" and "wrong doing," but up to three generations of their family members can be imprisoned as well. According to one camp escapee, because of this guilt by association, small children are forced to haul coal in underground mines and watch the executions of family members. Surely releasing them would pose no conceivable danger to North Korea's government, and this could serve as an entry point to longer-term discussions about the estimated 150,000 to 200,000 political prisoners held in brutal conditions.

Above all, the strategy should focus on securing greater access to North Korea. After years of negotiations, there has been prog-

By ROBERTA COHEN

Special to The Washington Post

Cohen is a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, specializing in humanitarian and human rights issues, and a board member of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea.



ress on the humanitarian front. In 2008, for instance, Pyongyang agreed to allow greater access to relief workers bringing in food, to let them conduct inspections of food distribution with 24-hour notification and to permit Korean-speaking staff members. Though many of these concessions were withdrawn this year and need to be reinstated, a foundation was established.

Comparable efforts must be exerted to gain access for international human rights workers. For more than five years, North Korea has refused entry to the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea, denied visits by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and barred the Red Cross from seeing prisoners or foreign citizens abducted to the North. Nor has North Korea accepted the standards of the International Labor Organization so that the ILO can investigate labor camps and factories. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has not been able to screen North Koreans who have fled to China or monitor the plight of those forced back into North Korea. It is time for the United States, together with U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, to mobilize a group of states with influence with North Korea to press for compliance with the goals and programs of the United Nations. A coherent plan would bring together all the disparate U.N. agencies and offices that seek human rights improvements in North Korea.

Finally, the creation of an organization for peace and security in northeast Asia should be a central aim of this new strategy, one that would expand the discussion among the six parties beyond strategic, economic and energy issues to include human rights and humanitarian concerns once multilateral talks resume. North Korea has already ratified the major international human rights agreements and might be more willing to face up to its international obligations within a regional framework from which it could gain political and economic benefits. Former ambassador James Goodby, who helped set up the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, has argued, in a paper written while he was at the Brookings Institution, that a comparable framework for Asia could be "a much-needed agent for change" and help to hold governments accountable for the treatment of their people. With Kim Jong Il ailing and the future of the country uncertain, there may now be an opportunity to add human rights to the agenda.

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How not to hire and retain a physician

By **EDWARD CORNETT, M.D.**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Over the months I have been following closely the medical scene here on Saipan as reflected in the local press and would like to pass some experiences and observations on certain matters. First, what makes me qualified to do this? Well, I have lived in the “bowel of the beast” as former chairman of Emergency Medicine as well as serving as director of Medical Affairs at CHC and feel this puts me in the position to make some observational points on how *not* to hire and retain physician.

I resigned my position with CHC in April 2008 and not for reasons as regularly stated in the press: “Dr. X resigned for personal reasons” or “Dr. X resigned to be with family on the mainland or wherever Dr. X may hail from.” I resigned on issues that were strictly business, nothing personal; it was just business. What business you may ask? We will get to those matters later on in this discourse.

You must know this. One individual or single government office cannot be blamed for the overall state of affairs medicine is in here in the CNMI. It is strictly the “business of the system.” A collection of little broken parts that has led to a broken whole.

How so? The best approach would be to trace the process of getting physicians to travel to the CNMI to work. There are several avenues for this. A good many come to work in order to pay off student loans accrued while in medical school by serving to work in an undeserved area, which the CNMI magnanimously qualifies as such an area. Others come with a true sense of adventure and want to contribute. Others come for “the island life.” In addition, there are those who come for other reasons, which soon surface after some time passes. For the most part these sources account for bringing the majority of doctors here. How does one find out about work here in the CNMI? Most often it is by word of mouth from others who have been here in the past and pass on the word. As mentioned before, physicians looking to work in undeserved areas to offset school loan debt find out through Health and Human Service with the U.S. government. Also, rarely, one will find a random job placed in a professional journal about coming to the island paradise to work and play in the sun with a “not so truthful” description of the medical environment, which is usually written by the recruitment firm that places the advertisement in whatever journal or job board in question and collects a finders fee, often as high as \$10,000 if a doctor signs on. For some time, many Canadian physicians came to Saipan as they were paid in U.S. dollars but, as the value of the Canadian dollar rose, it snipped that pipeline to some degree and few come as a result. By and large, the word of mouth pipeline and debit reduction account for the major sources of recruiting physicians here.

And of course you have the usual increase in inquiries from “short-time,” “cold-weather-bird” types who migrate from Canada or the U.S. mainland when the weather starts to cool down and the winter months are starting there.

So, okay, I want to come to the CNMI to work? Here I am. Now what? Ahhh, here lies the rub.

Prior to arriving you are often told your contract is in the “routing process”; the passing of the contract through several governmental offices for signatures. Normally this is told to you before arriving. When you do get here, often your contract is still routing through the various offices for signature. What does this mean in

the real world? You likely start work with no signed contract, and that means no compensation is coming until it is signed by multiple governmental offices individually and passed on; which may take as long as two months! Why? Contracts are generated in one or two days elsewhere. Why is this allowed? CNMI law, I am told. Well then it is a law and process that is counterproductive and serves no function in a practical manner. Needs to be changed. You have to pay your doctors! Like anyone, you work you get paid. Not to even mention the issue of physician indemnity during this routing contract period.

One additional point should be noted. For the most part, no physician comes here for the money or to practice high-tech medicine with the latest and hottest tools in medicine. Why? *Because these items do not exist here in the CNMI.* Again, doctors do not come here for the money! So talking salary alone as a recruiting measure is somewhat ridiculous. The CNMI currently can never match what physicians make in the U.S., Canada or European market.

OK, now your contract is signed. Now what? You soon find that at times there is often not an adequate blood supply available on the island of Saipan. You know how dangerous that is? Again, it

The people of the CNMI deserve quality healthcare and that should be a primary budget consideration and funds should be allocated accordingly to fix the many broken wheels of medical care in the CNMI. Your health is your most important asset.

is a system problem, a system with no reliable access to adequate medical supplies and needs. Why? While working in the emergency department at CHC as the director of Emergency Medicine, my colleagues and I often were faced with no “key” lab studies being available; a CT scanner that is essentially so old and of marginal diagnostic value. The CT scanner is an essential item in medicine today. I cannot emphasize how critical this item is. Again, more fallout from a broken system. No supplies is a common problem here. I mean basic items. The “not-on-island” supply list is long and impressive. For instance, the lack of proper suture material for wound repair and proper instruments to get the job done is standard in the Emergency Department. Sometimes it is like trying to pluck your eyebrows with a pair of pliers when closing a wound on a face or elsewhere. You have to think out of the box here as a physician. The medical environment here in the CNMI is definitely not for the faint of heart. The pioneer type, the adventurer, the physician with strong clinical skills, is the type of physician that is needed here. The physician who wants a practice challenge working in an undeserved area with limited resources is what is needed and not a cold-weather bird seeking the tropical escape or the wind surfer or Bali traveler.

Efforts in recruitment should be channeled in this manner. Which means the need for “truthful recruitment” of physicians is what is required. Being upfront from the get go. Let them know how hot the fire is before putting their hand into it. Make sure the candidate doctor knows what the situation is here prior to coming so they are not met with surprises and disappointment when they arrive. You may be surprised by using this approach... the doctors that do take on the challenge may stay.

Limited resources, now what does that mean for medicine here in the CNMI? The “not-on-island” supply list has a big impact here on the quality of care and ability to render proper diagnosis in some cases. Example, cardiac enzymes. This is a test that helps the physician determine if injury to the heart muscle has occurred. Often this test was not consistently available at CHC in the past. Why? Cardiac enzymes are just one of many often lacking essential lab tests needed to practice “quality medicine.” Creatinine is one test of kidney function that is essential for managing patients on dialysis... often not available for months. Blood thinners are taken by many people here. PT or Prothrombin time is essential here. Coumadin or warfarin is a dangerous medicine, which needs to be monitored closely by using the PT or INR test. Often not available here for unacceptable periods or time. Why? These are the fundamental questions that need answers to start to fix the “broken wheels” of CNMI medical care. As I stated, the “not-on-island” supply list is long, impressive, and is a major obstacle to quality medical care.

What if you are critically ill or injured in the CNMI? There are certain medical scenarios that are a stamped death warrant here. Head injury being one of the major players, you sustain a head injury here in the CNMI of even moderate severity and your chances of not suffering long-term effects is a true gamble here. Severe head injuries are surely doomed. Significant heart injury is another one. There is no heart catheterization lab, which is the gold standard for acute heart attacks in most cases. Clot busters are given here, which is fine, but could be risky. The PT test that I mentioned earlier is critical here. Having no PT test means the risk of using clot busters is markedly increased. Get the picture? I think you can see the forest here as well as the trees that make it up.

I do hope that God speed a solution to the problems at hand. I, for one, will remain here in the CNMI to live with family and friends and I am always willing to lend a helping hand in health care here on Saipan in the Emergency Medicine department if treated fairly and with respect. The few physicians that remain here in this challenging medical environment should be applauded for doing so. They are currently being pushed to the limit yet the dam continues to spout new leaks. These endangered pioneers will soon run out of fingers to plug the holes in the medical care. They should be cherished resources.

The people of the CNMI deserve quality healthcare and that should be a primary budget consideration and funds should be allocated accordingly to fix the many broken wheels of medical care in the CNMI. Your health is your most important asset. In addition, the Human Resources Department at CHC should be applauded for their tireless efforts in assisting new as well as the seasoned physicians in adapting to the medical scene here on island. God bless.

Dr. Edward Cornett is a former chairman of Emergency Medicine and director of Medical Affairs at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Letters to the Editor

Marriage fraud

Wow, Jaime, you actually believe a statement you used while crossing the Canadian/USA border with a green card in hand when the Shah of Iran was still in power is a valid reason for people to illegally enter the U.S.? You questioned my legal acumen and called me a racist, which is both insulting and incorrect. I thought at some point you’d play the race card, as you have nothing else to back up your argument. Nothing is lower than that.

Here are some of what the USCIS goes through when entertaining marriage cases: Usually only the couple of a marriage themselves know the intention of their marriage. However, the USCIS will try to interpret the true intention of the marriage when the immigration officers are reviewing immigration petitions. The USCIS always takes into account the following factors while making their interpretation: 1. Whether the couple have known each other for a reasonably long time; 2. The frequency of meetings of the couple prior to the marriage; 3. Whether the couple have lived together in the past or presently live together; 4. Whether the couple married only after one party became the subject of an investigation, removal, or deportation proceedings by the USCIS.

An immigration petition may not be approved for the alien who

was married after the commencement of removal, exclusion, or deportation proceeding until the alien has resided outside the U.S. for at least two years, unless the alien spouse can prove the marriage was a good faith marriage and not solely for immigration purposes.

To prove the marriage was entered into in good faith, the following evidence should be presented: a. Document showing joint ownership of property; b. Joint tenancy of lease; c. Documentation showing commingling of financial resources; d. Birth certificates of children born to the couple; e. Affidavits of a third party proving there is a bona fide marital relationship between the couple; and f. Other documents to prove that the purpose of the marriage is not to evade immigration laws.

The USCIS has the discretion to suspect and then subsequently investigate a marriage that may bring immigration benefits to the aliens. If the USCIS has reasons to suspect that the marriage is a “sham marriage,” the USCIS officers have the authority to investigate.

Here is the part you need to really pay attention to, Jaime: Marriage fraud carries a penalty of up to a \$250,000 and/or five years

imprisonment. According to the Supreme Court, a marriage is bona fide for immigration purposes if it falls within “the common understanding of a marriage.” Any alien who enters into a marriage for the sole or primary purpose of evading U.S. immigration law is deemed to have engaged in marriage fraud and is inadmissible on that basis. An alien is any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States. Any alien who is found to have engaged in marriage fraud can be expelled from the United States through a removal process.






In order to be deemed one who has engaged in “marriage fraud,” an alien must enter into a marriage for the sole or primary purpose of evading U.S. immigration law. We have already established, by your or her stupid admission (and printed in the paper no less!) that she is trying to enter the U.S. by getting married to a U.S. citizen. Not only should you be ashamed but you may be hauled into court for assisting an alien with immigration fraud. Please quit helping people attempting to break federal laws.

William McCue
Wellington, Florida

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼78
Palau	Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲84 ▼78
Chuuk	Rain	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84 ▼80

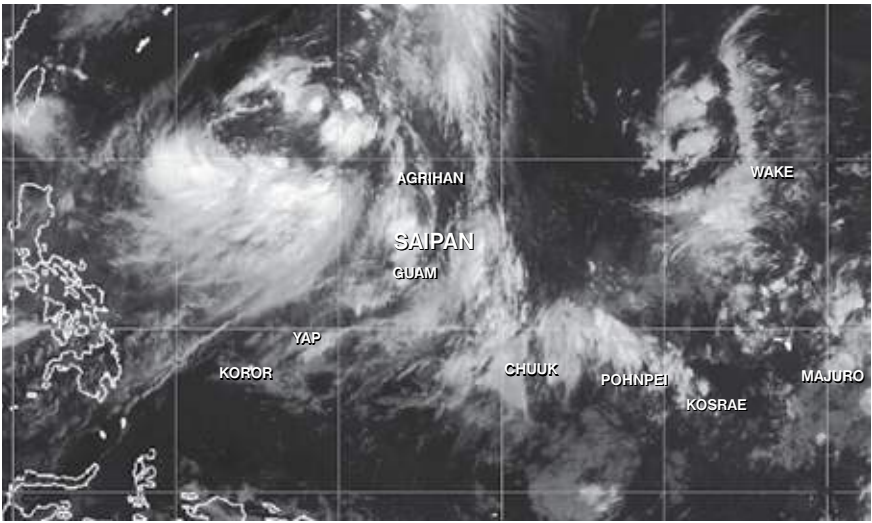
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲58 ▼47
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲91 ▼66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲83 ▼76
London	Showers	▲72 ▼60
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲86 ▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲58 ▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼72
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼75
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲77 ▼66
Pusan	Showers	▲83 ▼78
Rome	Sunny	▲82 ▼62
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼54
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲72 ▼56
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼70
Tokyo	Showers	▲84 ▼75
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲94 ▼73

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:47 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
5:27 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:05 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:14 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The monsoon trough extends from a tropical depression in the South China Sea across Luzon to a developing circulation centered near 20N133E to 23N143E. Convergent southwest winds into the circulation are producing a large area of showers and isolated thunderstorms from 17N to 21N between 130E and 141E. A surface trough extends southeast from this circulation across the Northern Marianas to a weak circulation located northeast of Chuuk near 8N153E. Convergent winds associated with the trough are generating scattered showers and few thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 18N142E to 8N159E. This includes the Marianas and northern portions of Chuuk and Pohnpei states. An upper-level low centered west of Wake Island at 20N159E is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northeast of the low from 20N to 23N between 160E and 163E and southeast of the upper low from 16N to 18N between 160E and 165E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers across the Marshall Islands from 2N to 12N between 170E and 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:32 PM	4:13 AM
Wednesday	6:13 PM	5:04 AM
Thursday	6:51 PM	5:54 AM
Friday	7:28 PM	6:42 AM
Saturday	8:03 PM	7:30 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123*	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125*	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

LaHood: Car rebates will stop unless Senate acts

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration will suspend the “cash for clunkers” program unless the Senate provides \$2 billion more for the popular car incentive plan, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said Sunday.

He said he expected the current \$1 billion pool to be exhausted

before Monday. The House approved an additional \$2 billion on Friday and the administration is pressing the Senate to go along before its summer vacation begins at week’s end.

“If we don’t get the \$2 billion from the Senate ... we would have to suspend the program next week,” LaHood said in



Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood helps Taylor Kean, 5, get out of a vehicle during an event in Washington, Monday, July 27, 2009, promoting a car buyer incentive program designed to help consumers purchase new fuel efficient vehicles if they trade in their old gas-guzzling cars or trucks.

an interview with C-SPAN’s “Newsmakers” show. He said the administration “will continue the program until we see what the Senate does and I believe the Senate will pass this.”

He added, “Any deal that is made (Monday) or the next day and that is in the pipeline, ... the dealer will be reimbursed and the car buyer will be reimbursed.”

At least one GOP senator questioned the need to speed the money.

“This is crazy to try to rush this thing through again while they’re trying to rush through health care, and they want to get on to cap and trade electricity tax,” said Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C. “We’ve got to slow this thing down.”

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said car and truck building had begun to rebound even before the

program got under way. But, he added, “there is no doubt that that very extraordinary response is a very important indicator that the state of confidence in the economy is beginning to pick up.” If the incentive program

had gone into place six months ago, he said, “it would have probably been a dud.”

Obama officials scrambled last week to add money to the Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS), which is designed to get old, pol-

luting vehicles off the road and scrapped while helping car dealers emerge from the recession. The \$1 billion has led to the sale of 250,000 new vehicles.

Owners of gas-guzzlers can receive rebates of \$3,500 or \$4,500 toward the purchase of a new fuel-efficient car. LaHood said 62 percent of the traded-in vehicles were trucks and “these people are buying cars that get much better gas mileage.” The program helped lift Ford Motor Co. to its first monthly sales increase in two years, the company’s top sales analyst said Sunday.

July sales results mark the first year-over-year gain for Ford since November 2007 and apparently the first uptick by any of the six biggest carmakers since last August, George Pipas said. He declined to disclose a specific total before sales results are officially reported Monday.

“We were having a good month—and Ford’s been having some good months lately—but the (clunkers) program really put us over the top for sure,” Pipas said.

China’s stimulus-fueled stock boom alarms Beijing

BEIJING (AP)—The middle-aged crowd in the packed Guosen Securities office jostle around buzzing printers that spit out receipts for their share buys, hoping to cash in on China’s stimulus-fueled stock market boom.

“The central government has to fulfill their promise of 8 percent economic growth,” said Wu Jun, 62, a retired civil servant who invested part of his life savings of 50,000 yuan (\$7,300) and lives on a 2,000 yuan-a-month (\$290 a month) pension. “They’ll come up with measures to keep the market in good shape.”

But while investors expect the market—up more than 80 percent this year—to keep rising, Chinese leaders are alarmed. They worry that too much of the \$1 trillion lending binge by state banks that paid for China’s nascent revival was diverted into stocks and real estate, raising the danger of a boom and bust cycle and higher inflation less than two years after an earlier stock market bubble burst.

Beijing is trying to tighten credit controls without derailing the economic revival or causing a market crash—a risky path at a time when Chinese leaders say a recovery is not firmly established.

“It’s a very serious threat. The Chinese government is walking a tightrope,” said Mark Williams, Asia economist for Capital Economics in London. “There is the question of what happens if they rein in lending, because there is really no strong evidence that private sector demand is picking up.”

Any hiccup in China’s recovery could dent its rising demand for imported industrial raw materials and consumer goods, damaging hopes it might lead the global economy out of its worst downturn since the 1930s.

China’s growth accelerated in the latest quarter to 7.9 percent over a year earlier while the United States and Europe struggle with recession. The surge was driven by Beijing’s 4 trillion yuan (\$586 billion) plan to insulate China by pumping up domestic demand with heavy spending on building highways and other public works.

But the growth—up from 6.1 percent in the previous quarter—highlighted China’s continued reliance on stimulus spending. The big gains were in construction and other stimulus-fueled areas, while retail spending and other private sector activity lagged.

2 Obama officials: No guarantee taxes won’t go up

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama’s treasury secretary said Sunday he cannot rule out higher taxes to help tame an exploding budget deficit, and his chief economic adviser would not dismiss raising them on middle-class Americans as part of a health care overhaul.

As the White House sought to balance campaign rhetoric with governing, officials appeared willing to extend unemployment benefits. With former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan saying he is “pretty sure we’ve already seen the bottom” of the recession, Obama aides sought to defend the economic stimulus and calm a jittery public.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and National Economic Council Director Larry Summers both sidestepped questions on Obama’s intentions about taxes. Geithner said the White House was not ready to rule out a tax hike to lower the federal deficit; Summers said Obama’s proposed health care overhaul needs funding from somewhere.

“There is a lot that can happen over time,” Summers said, adding that the administration believes “it is never a good idea to absolutely rule things out, no matter what.”

During his presidential campaign, Obama repeatedly vowed “you will not see any of

your taxes increase one single dime.” But the simple reality remains that his ambitious overhaul of how Americans receive health care—promised without increasing the federal deficit—must be paid for.

“If we want an economy that’s going to grow in the future, people have to understand we have to bring those deficits down. And it’s going to be difficult, hard for us to do. And the path to that is through health care reform,” Geithner said. “We’re not at the point yet where we’re going to make a judgment about what it’s going to take.”

Selling that proposal, however, has proved tricky.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil jumps above \$70 on optimism demand to recover

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices jumped above \$70 a barrel Monday in Asia on investor expectations a recovering global economy will boost crude demand. Benchmark crude for September delivery was up 73 cents to \$70.18 a barrel by midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Friday, the contract rose \$2.51 to settle at \$69.45. Oil prices seesawed last week before surging Thursday and Friday as investors bet that crude demand, which has been tepid this summer, will eventually pick up as the economy improves.

Bratz maker introduces new doll line

NEW YORK (AP)—MGA Entertainment Inc. is going to need to muster all the moxie it has for its latest launch. MGA is rolling out a new line of dolls called Moxie Girlz as Mattel Inc. plans to take over MGA’s former marquee product, the saucy Bratz dolls, following a four-year legal struggle. With more modest apparel and figures than Bratz, you can think of Moxie Girlz as Bratz lite, and MGA is banking on the line to

keep it afloat. MGA Entertainment began developing Moxie Girlz, targeted at girls ages 6 to 10, last year. The line was inspired by the recession and the changes in families’ lifestyles that came up in focus group discussions, says Paula Garcia, vice president of product design and development.

Google launches rare ad campaign to sell more apps

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. is so well known that it has become a synonym for search, making advertising unnecessary. Getting businesses to buy Google’s online suite of office applications requires a little more elbow grease and marketing muscle. In a rare commercial campaign, Google is leasing billboards along major highways in New York, San Francisco, Chicago and Boston this month to promote a bundle of business applications that sells for \$50 per worker annually. A different message will be displayed each weekday through August, starting with Monday morning’s commute. Google has been peddling its “apps” package since 2007, but only recently realized it needed a more aggressive sales pitch.

Wall Street looks to earnings, jobs to keep rally

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—After soaring on upbeat corporate earnings and forecasts, Wall Street might be able to stay positive even as there are signs that the economy is still struggling.

Investors enter the week after an extraordinary rally that gave the Dow Jones industrials their best month since October 2002 and their best July in 20 years. All the major indexes gained nearly 1 percent last week and touched their highest levels since last fall.

Dozens of major companies issued better-than-expected second-quarter earnings reports or promising outlooks for the rest of the year. But some traders remain cautious, as shown

Tuesday when they received a weaker-than-expected consumer confidence reading and Friday, when they reacted coolly to word from the Commerce Department that the economy shrank at a slower pace than expected in the April-June quarter.

“We are starting to see a bullish sentiment creep into the market, as we have had a strong run recently,” said Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist at RDM Financial Group in Westport, Conn. “A majority of positive earnings news is behind us, so it wouldn’t be surprising at all, in fact it might be healthy for the market, to see a brief pullback to refresh and bring new investors back into the market.”

July’s corporate reports, and the market’s own moves, may have given stocks a foundation that will help Wall Street weather bad news. This week, amid the continuing stream of earnings, the market will get reports on employment and how the manufacturing and service sectors fared during July.

“It doesn’t matter what they announce nor does it matter about the outcome of the announcement, investors should expect the week to be positive,” said David Hefty, CEO of Cornerstone Wealth Management in Auburn, Ind. He said the momentum spurred early last month is enough to keep markets moving for the next few weeks.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Man claims he found a rodent inside Diet Pepsi can

ORMOND BEACH, Fla. (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration is testing a Diet Pepsi can that a central Florida man claims had the remains of a possible rodent inside. Fred Denegri of Ormond Beach took a few sips from the can on July 23, only later to discover what was inside. He said the rodent was big enough that it wouldn't come out of the can. Pepsi officials said Wednesday they traced the can back to the manufacturing plant in Orlando and didn't find anything wrong with the company's quality controls and soda sampling. Spokesman Jeff Dahncke said it's unlikely that something like this could happen during production. Denegri called poison control after the discovery, but he didn't become sick. The 55-year-old says he's a Pepsi fan and will keep drinking it.

Flight from Mich. to NY lands safely after alert

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP)—A flight carrying 50 people from Detroit to Rochester, N.Y., has landed safely after a sensor indicated that a fire extinguisher in the plane's cargo bay went off. Authorities say Northwest Airlines Flight 2903 was about 30 miles outside of Rochester on approach Sunday night when an indicator alerted the crew of a possible problem in the cargo hold. The flight was being operated by Memphis, Tenn.-based Pinnacle Airlines Inc.

Episcopalians nominate gay clergy for bishop in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two Episcopal priests in same-gender relationships are among the nominees for assistant bishop of Los Angeles, officials said Sunday. The Rev. John L. Kirkley of San Francisco and the Rev. Mary Douglas Glasspool of Maryland will be among six candidates on the ballot when lay people and clergy vote in December, despite a long-standing request from world Anglican leaders for a moratorium on consecrating openly gay bishops. Los Angeles Bishop Jon Bruno said in a statement Sunday that he was "pleased by the wide diversity" of the nominees. Separately, the Diocese of Minnesota on Saturday announced that a lesbian was among its three candidates for bishop. That election is set for October 31.

AP sources: Military-civilian terror prison eyed

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is looking at creating a courtroom-within-a-prison complex in the U.S. to house suspected terrorists, combining military and civilian detention facilities at a single maximum-security prison.

Several senior U.S. officials said the administration is eyeing a soon-to-be-shuttered state maximum security prison in Michigan and the military penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., as possible locations for a heavily guarded site to hold the 229 suspected al-Qaida, Taliban and foreign fighters now jailed at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp in Cuba.

The officials outlined the plans—the latest effort to comply with President Barack Obama's order to close the prison camp by Jan. 22, 2010, and satisfy congressional and public fears about incarcerating terror suspects on American soil—on condition of anonymity because the options are under review.

White House spokesman Ben LaBolt said Friday that no decisions have been made about the proposal. But the White House considers the courtroom-prison complex as the best among a series of bad options, an admin-



In this Nov. 19, 2008 file photo reviewed by the U.S. Military, a Guantanamo detainee glances up while resting on a foam pad inside a fenced-in outdoor exercise area at the Camp 6 high-security detention facility on the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

istration official said.

To the House Republican leader, it's an "ill-conceived plan" that would bring terrorists into the U.S. despite opposition by Congress and the American people. "The administration is going to face a severe public backlash unless it shelves this plan and goes back to the draw-

ing board," said Antonia Ferrier, spokeswoman for Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio.

For months, government lawyers and senior officials at the Pentagon, Justice Department and the White House have struggled with how to close the internationally reviled U.S. Navy prison at Guantanamo.

Congress has blocked \$80 million intended to bring the detainees to the United States. Lawmakers want the administration to say how it plans to make the moves without putting Americans at risk.

The facility would operate as a hybrid prison system jointly operated by the Justice Department,

Black scholar says he's able to joke about arrest

CHILMARK, Mass. (AP)—Black Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. on Sunday joked about his arrest by a white police officer, but also described receiving death threats and dreaming about being arrested at the White House.

In his first public appearance since sharing a beer at the White House on Thursday with the officer and President Barack Obama, Gates said the national debate over racial profiling sparked by his arrest shows that issues of class and race still run "profoundly deep" in the United States.

"They have not been resolved at all," he said, speaking to a crowd of more than 150 who came to see him at the Martha's Vineyard Book Festival.

Gates was mostly light-hearted during his speech and even poked fun at himself after a man in the crowd told him he admired his sense of humor.

"I should have been funnier in the kitchen of my house on July 16," he said.



Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., walks with fellow Yale University graduate Tom Milch as Gates arrives at the Martha's Vineyard book festival in Chilmark, Mass., Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009.

But Gates also described how the incident and the subsequent arrest affected him personally. He said he had to shut down his public e-mail and change his cell phone number after receiving numerous death and bomb threats, including one that read, "You should die; you're a racist."

Gates was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge at his Cambridge home after police responded to a 911 call about a possible burglary. The officer who arrested him, Sgt. James Crowley, said Gates became belliger-

ent and called him a racist after he asked for identification. Gates accused police of racial profiling and called Crowley a "rogue cop."

The charge was dropped. Obama stepped into the fray during a White House news conference when he said Cambridge police had "acted stupidly." He later said he should have chosen his words more carefully and invited the two men to the White House for a beer.

Gates said that the night before he went to the White House, he dreamed about getting arrested there. When the two first came face to face in the White House, Gates said that both he and his family and Crowley and his family "looked like a deer caught in headlights."

He said Crowley looked "so relieved" when he shook his hand, and the two were able to find humor in the media frenzy unleashed by his arrest.

Study finds rise in student injuries in gym class

CHICAGO (AP)—Injuries to American children during physical education classes increased by 150 percent from 1997-2007, a new study finds, a possible drawback to a movement encouraging more vigorous exercise in schools.

Yet that may have less to do with lively gym programs than with lack of adult supervision,

experts said. A decline in school nurses and larger class sizes could be to blame, said the study's senior author Lara McKenzie of Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

"Children got hurt by running into equipment or having contact

with structures or other persons," McKenzie said. "They had heat stroke, fainting and heart palpitations." Boys had more cuts and broken bones than girls. Girls were more likely to suffer strains and sprains.

While the benefits of physical education classes outweigh the

risks, McKenzie said, "being healthy doesn't have to hurt."

The study, based on hospital reports of physical injuries, was released Monday and appears in the September edition of *Pediatrics*. It suggests schools should renew their efforts to make gym class safer, said Cheryl Richardson of the National Association for Sport and Physical Education in Reston, Va.

the military and the Department of Homeland Security.

The administration's plan, according to three government officials, calls for:

- Moving all the Guantanamo detainees to a single U.S. prison. The Justice Department has identified between 60 and 80 who could be prosecuted, either in military or federal criminal courts. The Pentagon would oversee the detainees who would face trial in military tribunals. The Bureau of Prisons, an arm of the Justice Department, would manage defendants in federal courts.

- Building a court facility within the prison site where military or criminal defendants would be tried. Doing so would create a single venue for almost all the criminal defendants, ending the need to transport them elsewhere in the U.S. for trial.

- Providing long-term holding cells for a small but still undetermined number of detainees who will not face trial because intelligence and counterterrorism officials conclude they are too dangerous to risk being freed.

- Building immigration detention cells for detainees ordered released by courts but still behind bars because countries are unwilling to take them.

American with cold misses ill-fated hike into Iran

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—An American linguistics student traveling in northern Iraq didn't go on an ill-fated hiking trip because he had a cold—a twist of fate that prevented him from mistakenly wandering into Iran where his three friends were reportedly detained.

The Swiss Embassy in Tehran was working Sunday to learn more about the Americans' fate through its contacts with the Iranian Foreign Ministry, spokeswoman Nadine Olivieri said. Switzerland represents U.S. interests in Iran.

Shon Meckfessel sat out the hike because he had a cold, his grandmother, Irene Meckfessel, told The Associated Press from her home in Carmichael, Calif. He called her Saturday from the American Embassy in Baghdad, she said.

The four had traveled to Turkey, then entered Iraq on Tuesday and traveled to Sulaimaniyah, according to the Kurdish regional government. On Thursday, one stayed behind while the other three took a taxi to the resort town of Ahmed Awaa, it added.

The regional government's statement said the three got lost during an excursion and were detained by Iranian authorities at the border.

ON THE NET

Pediatrics: <http://www.pediatrics.org>

Asia

Massive turnout for Aquino cortege in Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Masses of mourners yelled her name as former President Corazon Aquino's body was escorted Monday through rain-soaked streets to Manila Cathedral, along a historic avenue that 23 years ago became the site of a "people power" revolt against a dictator led by the woman in a yellow dress.

Tens of thousands left their offices, schools and homes and converged on streets and overpasses with clumps of yellow balloons, waving yellow ribbons and showering confetti on Aquino's flag-draped casket carried on a flatbed truck bedecked with flowers. Yellow became a symbol of the nonviolent mass uprising that forced Ferdinand Marcos from power in 1986.

As sunshine rays broke through the clouds, a man on a bicycle released four doves. Manila's notorious traffic came to a standstill as drivers rolled down windows and put out their hands flashing Aquino's trademark "L" sign for "laban," or "fight" in Filipino, her slogan in the campaign that toppled Marcos' 20-year repressive rule.

Many of the supporters—nuns, priests, students, wealthy residents and their uniformed

maids and ordinary folk—wore yellow, Aquino's favored color. Huge banners displayed "Thank You Corazon Aquino" and "You're Not Alone"—an Aquino slogan from the 1986 revolt.

From a school stadium where the casket was open for public viewing since her death Saturday, the motorcade passed by a "people power" shrine on EDSA highway, where hundreds of thousands of her supporters blocked Marcos' tanks in 1986.

Along Ayala Avenue, where Aquino led many pro-democracy marches, employees from high rises rained yellow confetti on the crowds below—reminiscent of the anti-Marcos protests Aquino led.

"I have not seen a crowd like this," said Franklin Drilon, Aquino's former Cabinet aide. "The people here are very enthusiastic, people in sandals, people in coat and tie, young and old with babies, they're coming out waving."

Instead of the usual stock figures, a streetside neon screen at the Philippine Stock Exchange flashed Aquino's favorite nickname with her portrait and a message: "Goodbye Cory and Thank You So Much Cory."

The funeral convoy briefly



The funeral motorcade for former Philippine President Corazon Aquino passes through a historic avenue that 23 years ago became the site of a "people power" revolt against a then dictator as her body is transferred from a Catholic gymnasium to Manila Cathedral for a two-day wake Monday Aug. 3, 2009, in the Philippines.

stopped at a monument of Aquino's assassinated husband, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

"I'm looking out the window now and I see women crying,"

said daughter Kris Aquino. "I really just appreciate the love. Everybody's saying thank you to us for sharing my mom."

Passing along palm tree-lined

Manila Bay, her body will be moved to the Manila Cathedral to lie in state for public viewing until Wednesday's funeral.

Aquino died early Saturday

at a Manila hospital after a year-long battle with colon cancer. She was 76.

The democracy icon rose to prominence after the 1983 assassination of her husband upon his return from U.S. exile to challenge Marcos.

His widow led the largest funeral procession Manila had ever seen, with crowd estimates as high as 2 million.

The killing enraged many Filipinos and unleashed a broad-based opposition movement that thrust Aquino into the role of national leader. Marcos claimed victory over Aquino in a snap 1986 election, but the polls were widely seen as fraudulent. A group of military officers rebelled against him, triggering three days of "people power" protests by hundreds of thousands that finally toppled Marcos.

A housewife who was reluctantly thrust into power, Aquino struggled in office to meet high public expectations. Her land redistribution program fell short of ending economic domination by the landed elite. Her leadership, especially in social and economic reform, was often indecisive, leaving many of her closest allies disillusioned by the end of her term.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China says another 319 detained over Xinjiang riot

BEIJING (AP)—Police in western China have detained another 319 people suspected of being involved in deadly ethnic unrest between Muslim minority Uighurs and the dominant Han Chinese community last month, a state news agency said. Police in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, said the detentions were made in the city and elsewhere in the far western region, based on information given by the public or obtained in investigations, the official Xinhua News Agency reported late Sunday. It did not say how many of those detained were Uighur or Han Chinese. The detentions came in addition to earlier announcements by the government that more than 1,600 people have been detained over the July 5 riots in Urumqi that started when police stopped a protest by the Turkic-speaking Uighurs. The Uighurs smashed windows, burned cars and attacked Han Chinese. Two days later, the Han took to the streets and staged retaliatory attacks.

Search begins for missing Indonesian plane

JAKARTA (AP)—Search planes hunted Monday for an aircraft carrying 16 people that is believed to have crashed in eastern Indonesia. Four planes were flying close to the route that the Twin Otter was taking before it lost contact with flight controllers Sunday over the remote Papua region, said Air Force Col. Suwandi Miharja. No trace of the small plane has been found, he said. The missing plane was on a 50-minute journey from Sentani, a major airport in Papua, to the town of Oksibil.

Pakistan Christians shut schools to mourn killings

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani Christians have closed their schools and colleges across the country for three days starting Monday to mourn and protest the killings of eight of their religious brethren, leaders of the minority community said. Hundreds of Muslims, apparently spurred by a banned Islamist group, stormed a Christian neighborhood in the eastern city of Gojra on Saturday, burning dozens of houses after reports surfaced that some Christians had desecrated a Quran. Six Christians died in flames, while two were killed by gunshots. Christian leaders and Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah said an initial probe had debunked the Quran defilement rumor.

Bomb blast in Afghanistan's west kills 10

KABUL (AP)—The Taliban killed 10 people and critically injured a local police chief in western Afghanistan's main city on Monday with a remote-controlled bomb hidden in a trash can, officials said.

The bomb was set on a crowded street near a fruit market in Herat. It appeared to target the police chief for nearby Injil district who was driving into town, said Raouf Ahmedi, the top police spokesman in western Afghanistan.

He said the district chief, Mohammad Issa, was being transferred to a NATO-run hospital in critical condition.

Local police officials had initially reported 12 dead in the explosion. But the head of the regional health department, Doctor Ghulam Said Rashid, confirmed there were 10 killed: a woman, a young girl, six men and two police officers.

Rashid and Ahmedi said 30

people were injured in the blast, which blew windows out on a 100-meter (yard) radius.

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, said the group had targeted the police chief.

The Interior Ministry, meanwhile, said insurgents attacked a police checkpoint in the old city of Baghlan to the north of the country on Sunday. Eight militants and two police died in the ensuing gunbattle, the ministry said in a statement Monday.

The violence in the comparatively calm cities of Herat and Baghlan highlighted the volatile situation across the country as Afghanistan braces for presidential and local elections later this month.

President Hamid Karzai, considered the front-runner in the vote, condemned Monday's bombing and urged police to track down its perpetrators. "This is another attempt by the

terrorists to disrupt democracy and development in Afghanistan," Karzai said in a statement issued by his office.

Some 101,000 NATO and U.S. forces are deployed to secure the country. This includes a record 62,000 U.S. troops, more than double the number a year ago but still half their strength in Iraq. President Barack Obama has increased the U.S. focus on Afghanistan as the Pentagon begins pulling troops out of Iraq.

Nine troops have been killed in fighting or bombings this month in Afghanistan, including three Americans on Sunday and three on Saturday, along with two Canadians and one French.

July was the deadliest month for international troops since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion to oust the Taliban government for sheltering al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, with 74 foreign troops, including 43 Americans, killed.

Skorean envoy to meet US officials over NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's nuclear envoy will meet key U.S. diplomats in charge of North Korea policy in Hawaii this week to talk about how to handle the communist country in the wake of its latest nuclear and missile tests, his office said Monday.

Envoy Wi Sung-lac plans to meet U.S. special envoy Stephen Bosworth and Ambassador Sung Kim, a State Department official

in charge of ongoing nuclear talks on North Korea, on Tuesday and Wednesday. Their discussions will be a brainstorming session aimed at finding ways forward, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Pyongyang has said it won't return to the six-nation talks, but it has strongly indicated it is interested in one-on-one negotiations with Washington. The six-nation talks bring together

China, Japan, the two Koreas, Russia and the United States.

The United States says it can talk bilaterally with the North, but only within the six-nation framework.

As a way to pressure North Korea to return to the negotiating table, Washington has been seeking international support for strict enforcement of a U.N. sanctions resolution adopted to punish the North for its May 25 nuclear test.

Plague kills 2nd man; China seals off entire town

BEIJING (AP)—A second man has died of pneumonic plague in northwest China, in an outbreak that prompted authorities to lock down a town where about a dozen people were infected with the highly contagious deadly lung disease, a state news agency said.

The World Health Organization office in China said it was in close contact with Chinese health authorities and that measures taken so far to treat and quarantine people were appropriate.

The man who died Sunday was identified only as 37-year-old Danzin from Ziketan, the stricken town in Qinghai province, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Danzin was a neighbor of the first person who died, a 32-year-old herdsman whose name was not given. Another 10 people, mostly relatives of the first deceased man, were infected and undergoing isolated treatment in hospital, Xinhua said in a report late Sunday.

The town of 10,000 people has been sealed off and a team of experts was sent to the area, the local health bureau said Sunday, warning that anyone with a cough or fever who has visited the town since mid-July should seek treatment at a hospital.

World

US hopeful about exit after a quiet July in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—July is on track to be the least deadly month for American troops and one of the quietest for Iraqis since the war started, a decline in violence that has led the U.S. to consider stepping up its withdrawal plans just a month after pulling its combat forces back from Baghdad and other cities.

The optimism was tempered by two bombings that killed 12 civilians to the north and west of Baghdad on Thursday. While such attacks have become a daily fact of life for Iraqis, overall violence levels remain low.

At least 274 Iraqis have been killed in attacks so far in July, according to an Associated Press count. Only two months—both this year—have seen fewer Iraqis killed since the AP began tracking war-related fatalities in May 2005. There were 242 deaths in January and 225 deaths in May.

Only seven U.S. troop deaths have been recorded this month, the lowest monthly total since the war started in March 2003, according to an AP tally. In all, at least 4,329 members of the U.S. military have died in the Iraq war.

By contrast, July was the



An Iraqi soldier inspects a destroyed vehicle in the aftermath of Friday's bombing in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009.

bloodiest month for U.S. forces in the eight-year Afghan war, with at least 41 dead.

The encouraging numbers from Iraq came a month after the Americans turned over responsibility for protecting cities to government forces and withdrew to bases outside urban areas.

A spike in bombings and other attacks that killed about 300 people in the 10 days leading up to the June 30 city withdrawal deadline sparked concern that the move would jeopardize security gains. But that level of violence did not continue into July.

Jim Dobbins, director of

national security research at RAND Corp., said the relatively smooth transition was one reason for Wednesday's remarks by Defense Secretary Robert Gates that the U.S. may speed up its withdrawal plans if the trend toward reduced violence continues.

Iraq: Ex-Saddam aide gets 7 years in Kurdish case

BAGHDAD (AP)—One of Saddam Hussein's best-known lieutenants was convicted Sunday of helping to plan the forced displacement of Kurds from northeastern Iraq and sentenced to seven years in jail.

It was the second conviction against Tariq Aziz, the silver-haired former foreign minister and deputy prime minister who argued his boss' case in the halls of the United Nations and other international forums.

Dozens of villages were destroyed, thousands of people displaced and children separated from their families as part of Saddam's campaign against the Kurds in the late 1980s.

"Because you committed the crime of forced displacement against the Kurdish people, the court has decided to sentence you to seven years in prison," Judge Mahmoud Salih said. Aziz did not respond as the sentence was handed down.

The defense has claimed Aziz, a fluent English-speaker and the only Christian in Saddam's mostly Sunni Muslim inner circle, spent most of his time on diplomatic missions outside Iraq and was not involved in atrocities.

"The verdict against Mr. Aziz was a political decision," defense attorney Badee Izzat Aref said.

Saddam's cousin Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali," former Interior Minister Sadoon Shakir and former regional official Mizban Khudr Hadi also received seven-year sentences. Four other former regime members received six years in jail while five were acquitted.

Sunday's ruling came more than four months after Aziz was sentenced to 15 years in prison for crimes against humanity in the 1992 execution of Iraqi merchants.

Confidante: Honduran leader open to Zelaya return

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduras' interim leader has backed off his opposition to restoring Manuel Zelaya to the presidency but wants concessions to mollify reluctant business leaders, a former Honduran government official said Thursday.

Interim President Roberto Micheletti's refusal to consider Zelaya's reinstatement had been a key stumbling block in talks on solving the Central Ameri-

can nation's political crisis following the June 28 coup.

Micheletti told the chief mediator in the conflict, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, that the door was open to Zelaya's reinstatement, said the former official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to divulge information from a private conversation. The ex-official, who has been in frequent contact with Micheletti, said he spoke Wednesday

with the interim leader.

Arias, meanwhile, said Micheletti has asked him to send an envoy to Honduras to jumpstart negotiations.

Arias, who said he was considering the proposal, said the envoy would have to meet with several sectors, "especially businessmen ... who have been very reluctant to consider the possibility that Zelaya be reinstated."

There was no immediate reaction from Zelaya, whose

supporters protested in Honduras on Thursday. Clashes with police left at least one man seriously injured.

Nearly all foreign governments have condemned the coup, and the United States and the European Union have suspended millions of dollars in development aid to Honduras.

The U.S. stepped up the pressure this week by suspending the diplomatic visas of four Honduran officials and warning it was

reviewing the visas of all members of the interim government.

The U.S. State Department declined to name the officials, but the interim government identified them as the president of Congress, the defense minister, the national human rights ombudsman and the Supreme Court justice who signed the order for Zelaya's arrest.

Arias warned Honduras could face more sanctions.

"Certainly, there has been a

lot of international pressure ... visas have been revoked and more visas could be revoked," he said. "And I can't reveal other sanctions that many other countries are considering."

The former official said Micheletti is seeking several changes to a compromise proposed by Arias last week that would restore Zelaya as president of a coalition government. The changes are aimed providing stronger guarantees that Ze-

Anxious wait in Haiti for survivors of capsizing

CAP HAITIEN, Haiti (AP)—Dozens of anxious Haitians waited at an airport Thursday to learn whether family members were among the survivors of a sailboat packed with migrants that struck a coral reef and broke apart, killing at least 15 people and leaving dozens missing.

Relatives of the migrants and a few repatriated survivors stood for hours in the tropical sun at the airport in Cap Haitien, including one woman who carried a photo of her 18-year-old son. She said he was among some 200 people on the overloaded vessel when it ran aground near the Turks and Caicos Islands Sunday night.

"They stole my child," Gentila Lormile said of the smugglers who organized the ill-fated voyage to Providenciales, the

most populated island in Turks and Caicos, where many Haitians have gone to seek work in recent years.

Officials have not yet compiled a full list of the 119 survivors or the nearly 70 who are missing, in part because of the large size of the group and a shortage of Haitian Creole translators, said Sgt. Calvin Chase, a spokesman for the Royal Turks and Caicos Police Force.

It is common for officials to struggle to identify survivors because they usually are reluctant to give their real names, said Harold Joseph, Haitian ambassador to the Bahamas.

"They hope to have another trip," he said. "That's why they don't want to provide information."

WORLD BRIEFS

Israelis rally after 2 murdered at gay center

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Reeling from the worst attack ever aimed at homosexuals in Israel, members of the country's gay community and their supporters rallied Sunday in the heart of Tel Aviv a day after a masked gunman killed two people at a center for gay youth and escaped. As protesters with rainbow flags mourned the victims and condemned the homophobic sentiment assumed to be behind the attack, police hunted for the assailant throughout a city that has long prided itself on a live-and-let-live attitude and a thriving gay community. "I fear that if the man who did this is not found, the consequences to the gay community might be far-reaching—they might live in

fear," said Arnon Hirsch, a 47-year-old lawyer who was one of several hundred people who took part in the protest near the center attacked Saturday night.

Woman handed victory in UK assisted suicide case

LONDON (AP)—A disabled woman won her legal battle Thursday to force British authorities to say whether her husband would be prosecuted if he helped her commit suicide. The House of Lords, Britain's highest court, ordered the government to draw up rules for when it will—and won't—prosecute assisted suicide, which is illegal in the U.K. Debbie Purdy, who has multiple sclerosis, said the ruling "gives me my life back." The judgment is a defeat for those who argue that Britain's

law on assisted, already rarely enforced, risks being further weakened.

Canada extradites German businessman Schreiber

TORONTO (AP)—Businessman Karlheinz Schreiber was en route to Germany to face charges related to a political scandal surrounding former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, after losing a 10-year fight to avoid extradition from Canada, officials confirmed. German prosecutors accuse Schreiber of evading income tax on millions of dollars in commissions from arms deals. The 75-year-old dual Canadian and German citizen faces charges of tax evasion, bribery and fraud. Canadian Justice Department spokeswoman Genevieve Bretton said Schreiber was put on a

flight that left Toronto between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. EDT Sunday (0000 GMT and 0200 GMT Monday). She did not give further details.

Wind whips up fires on Spain's Canary Islands

LA PALMA, Canary Islands (AP)—Strong winds fanned forest fires for a second day Sunday on the Spanish Canary Island of La Palma, and firefighters were forced to retreat as flames raged out of control near two towns. Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero visited areas affected by fire and viewed firefighting efforts on the island late Sunday. "I'm conscious of the damage done; I've witnessed it myself," Zapatero said, adding that he hoped better news would be coming soon.

Overdrive

Back before the Earth cooled, J.C. Penney and other fine retail outlets sold a component stereo system whose speakers pulsed with colored lights in time with the music. There was also, it seems to me, a Wurlitzer organ that had dancing lights in the speaker cabinet. In the 1970s, this qualified as staggeringly awesome.

So I was surprised—and not a little nostalgic—to see this “technology” show up in the 2010 Kia Soul Sport, a fervid box of discount hipness targeting audio-obsessed teens and 20-somethings.

Our \$18,345 test car was equipped with six speakers (including a center channel and subwoofer) powered by an external amp pushing enough decibels to loosen one’s grip on bodily functions.

The door speakers have LED lights built in that throb to the music. Please be advised that, if you are sitting in the grocery store parking lot at night grooving to Katy Perry, and you are in your late 40s, you will look like a demented old man.

The Soul is a cool-looking little gizmo penned with confidence if not gall: the bold upward window sill line, the deep beveling around the windows, the outsize fender flares, the frog-eyed headlamps and vertical taillamp assemblies. Put it all together and the Soul looks rather like a Land Rover LR2 had its way with a Scion xB. Well done.

Other than its resolute boxiness, the Kia Soul recommends itself primarily on the basis of price, and I must say the Soul delivers a significant amount of kit for the money: power accessories, keyless entry, fog lights, lots of tarty sport trim (roof spoiler, side sills, front



LOS ANGELES TIMES

The six-speaker 2010 Kia Soul Sport can be personalized with accessories and custom graphics.

Kia Soul Sport is a beat box on wheels

By DAN NEIL

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For the Kia’s first-car audience, fun means being able to pile your friends in the back—and the vast rear doors and large back seat make that easy—and heading out for an affordable night of self-inflicted hearing loss. Fun means a warranty that won’t expire until after you get out of graduate school. Fun means being able to make your car payment. Fun means affording the gas. The Soul Sport gets quite decent fuel economy of 30 miles per gallon in highway driving.

For parents who may be financially assisting, the Soul offers the consolation of lots of safety gear, including stability control, six airbags and active headrests. The Soul scored five stars in both the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration’s crash-test rating and Europe’s NCAP. Having your kids come home in one piece is fun, too.

The atman of this car resides in the interior, and it doesn’t disappoint ... much. The seats are mounted high on pedestals, so there’s plenty of legroom to go with the vast headroom. The high-design, two-tone interior—red/black in our “Molten” red test car—looks great. The center stack’s audio and climate controls are easy to reach and operate. Most of the dash is covered in a kind of dot-pattern soft plastic, like the rubbery grip tape you’d put on a skateboard.

The big problem with the interior is that the hard plastic on the doors and interior panels is easily scuffed. The driver’s door of the test car was already pretty well scarred when I got it. I expect Kia soon will rethink its choice of materials for this high-wear area.

How does the Soul stack up against the



LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Kia Soul Sport features a two-tone interior. The dash is covered mostly in a kind of dot-pattern soft plastic.

bumper and side moldings), and fairly racy 18-inch wheels and tires.

Is it fun to drive? God no. It’s a shopping cart, an eight-cornered wheelbarrow. Powered by a 2-liter, 142-horsepower four-cylinder engine and five-speed manual transmission, the Soul moans like a poltergeist under hard acceleration. The steering feels

vague, and the car corners skittishly. The clutch and brake pedal couldn’t feel more numb if you had an epidural, and the shift lever feels like a spoon in an empty bowl.

The Soul—with MacPherson strut front suspension and torsion beam rear—is built on a modified Kia Rio platform, which I don’t believe is on anyone’s list

NUTS & BOLTS

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Base price: \$16,950
Price as tested: \$18,345
Powertrain: 2.0-liter, 16-valve DOHC four-cylinder with variable valve timing; five-speed manual transmission; front-wheel drive
Horsepower: 142 at 6,000 rpm
Torque: 137 pound-feet at 4,600 rpm
Curb weight: 2,800 pounds
0-60 mph: 8+ seconds
Wheelbase: 100.4 inches
Overall length: 161.6 inches
EPA fuel economy: 24 mpg city, 30 mpg highway
Final thoughts: A Korean Cube

of mind-blowing sporters.

The Soul is certainly drivable and pleasant. But fun? The Soul falls somewhere between having your teeth cleaned and vacation Bible school.

Note: If the anesthetized torpor of



LOS ANGELES TIMES

The bold look includes frog-eyed headlamps, vertical tail lamp assemblies and outsize fender flares.

the five-speed-equipped car proves too much, you can choose a four-speed automatic for no extra cost. Still too hairy? The base model comes with a 1.6-liter, 122-horsepower four-binger.

Here’s the thing, though: The target audience is not much interested in driving fun, per se, at least as we defined it back in my carbureted youth.

segment’s benchmark, the Honda Fit?

Incontestably, the Fit is a better-engineered car and more fun in stick-and-rudder driving. But the Soul has a lovely, expansive feel to it, and it’s a screaming value. The Soul joins the Scion xB, Honda Element and the new Nissan Cube in the boxy boxing ring, and I think it will do just fine.

Ford to post
1st monthly
sales increase
in 2 years

CHICAGO (AP)—Surging demand from the government’s “cash for clunkers” program has helped lift Ford Motor Co. to its first monthly increase in two years, the company’s top sales analyst said Sunday.

July sales results mark the first year-over-year gain for Ford since November 2007 and apparently the first uptick by any of the six biggest carmakers

since last August, George Pipas said.

He declined to disclose a specific total before sales results are officially reported on Monday. Dearborn, Mich.-based Ford sold a total of 161,071 vehicles in July 2008, down 15 percent from a year earlier.

The increase further testifies to the successful reception of the government rebate program, which Presi-

dent Barack Obama signed into law June 24 as part of a broad \$106 billion spending bill.

“We were having a good month—and Ford’s been having some good months lately—but the (clunkers) program really put us over the top for sure,” Pipas said in a telephone interview.

The government’s Car Allowance

Rebate System (CARS) was designed to get old, polluting vehicles off the road and scrapped while helping car dealers emerge from the recession. Owners of gas-guzzlers could receive rebates of \$3,500 or \$4,500 toward the purchase of a new fuel-efficient car. The program proved wildly popular and led to the sale of 250,000 new vehicles in just days.

Life & Style

There is little I love more than escaping to the country. Give me sunshine, the perfume of freshly mown hay, a view of planted hills rolling peacefully into the distance, top it off with great food and wine. There is no better place on a spring day than this vineyard spot.

At the Sanford Winery & Vineyards in the Santa Rita Hills of California's Santa Barbara County, we're not merely tasting wine; we're diving into our own wine-making experience and immersing ourselves in pure indulgence at an old-fashioned lobster boil paired with a modern Pinot-blending party.

My husband, Bill, and I try to visit the Central Coast wine country in spring and fall, roaming through Santa Barbara wine country, San Luis Obispo or Paso Robles. Over the years, Bill has joined half a dozen or so wine clubs to ensure a constant flow of premium wines, at a discount, to our home.

This spring, we took advantage of another membership perk, wrapping a weekend around Sanford Winery & Vineyards' annual lobster feast, one of a growing number of wine country events that are more than just simple tastings. It is a full-blown celebration of spring, wine, food and the camaraderie of like-minded travelers.

As a member of Sanford's wine club, Bill



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Tasting and camaraderie are hallmarks of the events at Sanford Winery & Vineyards, nestled in the Santa Rita Hills of Santa Barbara County, Calif.

Mixing it up in California's wine country

By SUSAN DENLEY
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES



Sources: ESRI, TeleAtlas, USGS

LORRAINE WANG Los Angeles Times

Locator map details Sanford Winery & Vineyards, nestled in the Santa Rita Hills of Santa Barbara County, Calif.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

pays \$90 for each of us for the day's activities, and he may bring friends, who pay \$105 each as nonmembers. So we invite Nancy, Jim, Jane and Kevin to join us.

One drawback to living with a wine aficionado: We must take a separate car instead of pooling with our friends. Before the weekend is over, the back of our Ford Explorer will be crammed with cases of wine, so there is no room for luggage or passengers.

Kevin and Jane can't come until Saturday anyway. We leave Friday morning and rendezvous with Jim and Nancy for lunch at the Beachside Bar-Cafe on the sand at Goleta Beach. There, we watch waves lapping the pier and discuss which wineries to hit. It's 30 minutes or so up U.S. Highway 101 to the greater Buellton area, our base for the weekend.

We head first to Rideau, whose New Orleans-born owner has restored El Alamo Pintado Adobe (circa 1884) and imbued it with a pinch of Southern charm.

It's quiet as the four of us sample the estate Rhone varietals. But owner Iris Rideau often throws parties, such as her September birthday celebration for 300 people, complete with authentic New Orleans cuisine and live music. Back at our hotel, we take a relaxing soak in the spa and, as the sun sets, have dinner on the sun porch overlooking a broad lawn at Brothers' Restaurant in historic Mattei's Tavern. The early fresh pea

soup with mint tastes like country. The next day, we drive up scenic Santa Rosa Road to Sanford's winery at Rancho La Rinconada, about 10 miles west of U.S. 101 in Lompoc. There, cellar master Agustin Rodriguez ushers us into the coolness of a building whose 30-inch-thick adobe walls ensure a temperature of 55 to 65 degrees year-round.

We sit at one of about 20 round tables, where we'll spend an hour blending bottles of Pinot Noir. Each person will create a blend; then each table of eight will select a favorite to enter in competition.

Winemaker and general manager Steve Fennell explains that we'll be using two Pinots from the La Rinconada Vineyard and two from Sanford & Benedict, the oldest vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills appellation. Each vineyard is divided into blocks, and the wines that come from different blocks can be very, well, different. Thus, "the art of winemaking comes with the blending," Fennell tells us.

We each pour four glasses and set them on our place mats inside stenciled circles labeled 1, 2, 3 and 4—so we don't get confused about which is which. In just a few minutes, our table is laughing, tasting, passing around pitchers of the four wines and mixing our blends in calibrated test tubes and beakers—stopping often to taste.

I keep things simple, using only my two favorites, mixed half-and-half. Surprisingly,

mine wins the table's vote.

We pour a few mouthfuls into a small bottle for the Sanford staff to judge. Then each of us bottles his or her concoction, designs a label (these will be judged too) and has the thrill of seeing the bottles professionally corked, waxed and foiled.

After all this work we head outside, where three long tables have been set up at the edge of the vineyard. Cooks dump the contents of steaming pots onto paper tablecloths that run the length of the tables, revealing mounds of lobster, shrimp, artichokes, potatoes, corn, sausages and heads of garlic. Nutcrackers, cups of drawn butter and other condiments sit every few feet along the tables. At this meal, everything is finger food, and as we go at it, staff members circulate tirelessly, pouring more wine, plopping down baguettes of French bread, passing baskets of cookies.

As people have their fill, they begin to drift off to look at the barrel room or walk through rows of vines. After awhile, Fennell calls us together to announce the winners of the label and wine contests. When judging a Pinot, he says he looks for a blend with a "perfect balance of power and grace."

Nope, that didn't describe mine. But my loss doesn't matter.

If we were smart, we would work off some of that wine and food with an easy hike to Nojoqui Falls. Instead, we opt for showers, a rest, a snack at the Los Olivos Cafe and an early bedtime.

The next morning we meet for breakfast at Paula's Pancake House, one of our Solvang favorites where we sit on the patio and order apple pancakes, oatmeal, eggs and toast.

Bill and I decide to make one last stop before heading home over scenic California Highway 154. Although Bill's been buying wine at every stop, the car isn't quite full enough, so we visit Sunstone, a small family-owned winery west of town on Refugio Road.

Sunstone, I learn, hosts dinners and luncheons in its romantic cuvee cave. A summer evening of "Cinema Under the Stars" is planned in the vineyard. Events are for wine club members only.

Want to join another club, Bill?

Dancy adds a new ingredient to the rom-com formula

By **RUTH MCCANN**
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Actor Hugh Dancy, 34, seems to be on the verge of Colin Firth-ery. Which is to say that with his curly brown locks, Brit accent and leading-man repertoire (“Ella Enchanted,” “Confessions of a Shopaholic”), he may well be the next eloquent English pinup to grace the walls of Thinking Tweens. (Too bad, kiddos—he’s engaged to Claire Danes.)

In his upcoming film “Adam,” Dancy drops his Brit intonations to play Adam Raki, an Asperger’s-afflicted New York singleton who begins wading in the tragicomic waters of life and love after his father’s death. Dancy (whose middle names, incidentally, are Michael and Horace) spoke with us over lunch in Washington.

Q: Did you model Adam after anyone specific?

A: No. I met several individuals deemed by somebody else before we met to be close-ish to the character I was going to be playing, in terms of where they were on the autistic spectrum. ... The one thing I learned of real value to me when it came to picking and choosing was that there was this huge variety within that little label of Asperger’s.

Q: Did you have a dialect coach (while working on “Adam”)?

A: No. I guess I have worked with an American accent often enough that I felt relatively confident. ... I find it more distracting to have somebody constantly reminding you of how you sound. It obviously takes you out of yourself. And secondarily, we didn’t have any money for one anyway.

Q: What’s it like to be the son of a philosopher? (Dancy is the son of Prof. Jonathan Dancy of the University of Reading in England and the University of Texas at Austin.)

A: In terms of parenting, the most significant thing is that my father is a teacher more than he’s a moral philosopher. I suppose you could say also that he’s a teacher in an area that encourages people to ask questions of themselves. And he’s very good at it and pa-

tient. But all of that really pales into insignificance compared to the fact that he’s kind and all those other qualities that you hope for in a father. ... Put it this way—we didn’t sit ‘round at dinner talking about Hegel. Not much.

Q: “Adam” isn’t your normal romantic comedy, or your normal romance. What elements do you think Adam’s Asperger’s or this script tweak about the romance plot?

A: We’ve come to think of “rom-com” as being so comfortably predictable that we know what’s going to happen before it happens, right? The conceit is that two people come together and then some big obstacle falls in their way. ... And there’s usually a failure of communication. And there’s no greater obstacle to communication than the autistic spectrum.

But that only occurred to me toward the end of making the movie—it seems incredibly obvious now that it has that shape, but I remember it was like a flash, it was like “Oh! My God! This is a bit like a romantic comedy!”

Q: Asperger’s is a nice metaphor for relationships.

A: A phrase I’ve found myself using that fortuitously popped out of my mouth the other day—and I thought, “Well, that’s rather true”—is that empathy is something that even those of us who are gifted with it have to exercise all the time, like a muscle. And that’s true in any encounter. It’s true just to enable us to become semi-successful human beings.

In his upcoming film “Adam,” actor Hugh Dancy, shown in Washington, drops his British intonations to play Adam Raki, an Asperger’s-afflicted New Yorker who begins wading in the tragicomic waters of life and love after his father’s death.

THE WASHINGTON POST

By **JOHN HORN**
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—The Improv is packed with prominent wise-crackers, Adam Sandler, Seth Rogen and Jonah Hill among them. But as writer-director Judd Apatow films a scene for “Funny People,” about a comedian’s brush with mortality, the laughs are few and far between.

It’s December, and Apatow is more than halfway through principal photography for the film. In this scene, like many others in the film, Sandler’s character George Simmons isn’t in a joking mood. Instead, he is having an uncomfortable encounter with his assistant, an aspiring stand-up named Ira Wright, played by Rogen.

“Really go at him,” Apatow coaches Sandler.

The 41-year-old filmmaker wants Simmons to dissect Wright’s comedy act, and Apatow doesn’t want the criticisms to be constructive—they need to be personal, cutting, egotistic. “George could never be more self-involved,” Apatow says during a break in filming. “He never tells Ira anything that can help his act.”

Apatow himself has become a Hollywood franchise thanks to the opposite kind of behavior.

His hit comedies (Apatow directed “Knocked Up” and

Apatow risks something serious



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Judd Apatow says he wants “Funny People” to be as funny as “Knocked Up” and “The 40-Year-Old Virgin,” but deeper.

“The 40-Year-Old Virgin” and produced “Pineapple Express,” “Superbad” and “Forgetting Sarah Marshall,” among others) may be filled with raunchy dialogue, carnal quests and in-your-face nudity, but at their center are surprisingly sweet heroes and heroines.

“Funny People,” opening Friday, incorporates the trademark Apatow pageant of F-bombs and penis jokes, but its central character is scarcely likable. Simmons is a misanthrope. Faced with a potentially terminal diagnosis, he attempts to re-

evaluate his narcissistic life and the people he has wronged—with very limited results.

It’s a curious, pricey (\$75 million) departure for Apatow.

Early reviews have been sharply polarized. Universal’s marketing campaign has not shied from the film’s blood-disease plot line.

“Our establishing trailer did not attempt to hide it in any way, shape or form,” says Adam Fogelson, the studio’s marketing and distribution chief. “We haven’t tried to avoid the fact that he’s been diagnosed with a terminal illness—or that he’s been told

he’s actually going to be fine.”

The studio’s 30-second television spots tell a slightly different story. They have focused more on comic banter with Sandler, Rogen and Hill. “We’re definitely showing the breadth of the cast,” Fogelson says. “But we also have spots that show what it’s like to be at the top, and what it’s like to be at the bottom.”

Back on set at the Improv, Apatow is looking at what it’s like to be somewhere in the middle.

Rogen’s Wright, having served (and been beaten down) as Simmons’ assistant, is trying to establish his own stand-up act. A steady stream of prurient gags isn’t wow-ing the crowd, and one bit about his testicles may have been stolen from another comedian. Simmons tells Wright he has to stop telling the joke.

As cameras roll, Apatow shouts new lines of dialogue.

“Who is your audience going to be?” Simmons asks Wright, parroting Apatow’s improvisation. “People with weird-colored penises?”

As Apatow’s story has it, Simmons was a talented performer who made a string of commercially successful but insipid movies, including one in which his adult head was

digitally added to a baby’s body. Simmons lives in a palatial compound and has casual sex with random women. But he has no real friends.

When he is diagnosed with a potentially fatal ailment, Simmons returns to stand-up, delivering a tortured set about mortality. Wright, who’s next on stage, ridicules the act. Rather than be offended, Simmons invites Wright into his life. With Wright’s encouragement, Simmons tries to atone for some of his behavior, but the results are not inspiring. “It’s a mentor story,” Apatow says as his crew prepares for another shot. “It’s a disease movie. It’s a coming-of-age movie. It’s a movie about trying to restart an old romance. It’s 11 different movies rolled into one.”

Apatow says the movie was vaguely inspired by a stroke of luck that perhaps saved his life. He had bought a new home but procrastinated about moving in. During the Northridge earthquake, the chimney and roof crushed the unoccupied master bedroom.

“And I thought, ‘Now I’m really going to appreciate life,’” Apatow says. “And I did for about 10 days. The tendency is to go back and be normal—the

way you always were. Sandler’s character doesn’t know how to lead an emotionally healthy life. So he starts making a series of terrible mistakes.”

Unlike in “The 40-Year-Old Virgin,” those errors don’t involve harmless missteps such as having a hairy chest waxed. The blunders in “Funny People” include alienating loved ones, attempting to ruin a marriage and treating the one person who cares about him—Wright—despicably. “It’s a demented ‘Tuesdays With Morrie,’” Apatow says. “What if you couldn’t learn any of the important lessons?”

The comedy-club setting is similarly inspired by Apatow’s early career, when he wrote jokes for Garry Shandling, Jim Carrey, Roseanne Barr and Tom Arnold. The filmmaker was Sandler’s roommate for more than a year in the 1990s, and “Funny People” opens with a shaky video of much-younger Sandler and Apatow making crank phone calls from their apartment.

“It’s a challenge to make a movie that is about some of the more serious aspects of life while trying to make it just as funny as the other movies I’ve worked on,” Apatow says.

“I’m trying things I’ve never tried before,” he says. “I’d like this to be funny as anything else I’ve done, but to go a little deeper.”

Sandler's 'Funny People' wins weekend with \$23.4M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Adam Sandler's serious side has caught on with audiences.

Universal Pictures' "Funny People," with Sandler trading adolescent humor for an adult story about a terminally ill comedy star, debuted as the top weekend movie with \$23.4 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It was a modest weekend for Hollywood, with the shadow of last summer's juggernaut "The Dark Knight" hanging over the current blockbuster season. Overall summer revenues, which had been running ahead of last year's since early May, dipped below those of 2008, when "The Dark Knight" was packing theaters for weeks on end.

"It's staggering how strong 'The Dark Knight' was last year. At this point last year, 'The



In this film publicity image released by Universal Pictures, Adam Sandler, left, and Seth Rogen are shown in a scene from, "Funny People."

Emperor" with \$40.5 million.

"The Dark Knight" went on to a \$533 million domestic haul, the biggest hit since "Titanic."

Since the summer season opened the first week of May, Hollywood's domestic receipts total \$3.34 billion, off 0.8 percent through the same weekend last summer, according to figures compiled by Hollywood.com.

Factoring in this year's higher ticket prices, movie attendance this season is down 4.4 percent compared with summer 2008.

Next weekend's new action tale, Paramount's "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra," has great fan buzz and could help set Hollywood back on track to break last summer's domestic revenue record of \$4.2 billion, Dergarabedian said.

For the year, movies have rung up \$6.43 billion, on pace

to break the revenue record of \$9.68 billion set in 2007.

Coming in second for the weekend was the Warner Bros. fantasy adventure "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" with \$17.7 million, raising its domestic total to \$255.5 million.

Disney's family action tale "G-Force," the previous weekend's top movie, slipped to third with \$17.1 million, lifting its total to \$66.5 million.

The weekend's other new wide release, 20th Century Fox's family flick "Aliens in the Attic," opened at No. 5 with \$7.8 million.

"Funny People" debuted well below most of Sandler's comedies, which typically start with \$30 million to \$40 million opening weekends. Universal is counting on good word of mouth to keep it alive for a long run at the box office.

Dark Knight' had added nearly \$400 million to the summer box office. How can you compete with that?" said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

Revenues this weekend came in at \$122 million, down 20 percent from a year ago, when "The Dark Knight" led with \$42.7 million, followed by "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon

1. "Funny People," \$23.4 million.
2. "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," \$17.7 million.
3. "G-Force," \$17.1 million.
4. "The Ugly Truth," \$13 million.
5. "Aliens in the Attic," \$7.8 million.
6. "Orphan," \$7.3 million.
7. "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs," \$5.3 million.
8. "The Hangover," \$5.1 million.
9. "The Proposal," \$4.8 million.
10. "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," \$4.6 million.

Lengthy to-do list for Jackson hearing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The handlers of Michael Jackson's probate and guardianship cases have a full slate at a hearing meant to tackle a number of estate and family issues.

At least one major hurdle was cleared last week with a custody agreement between Jackson's mother, Katherine Jackson, and Deborah Rowe, the biological mother of the singer's two oldest children.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff has deferred hearing arguments or making rulings on several motions brought by attorneys for Katherine Jackson and the two men who have temporary control of the pop icon's financial matters: attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain.

Jackson's estate has been described in court documents as having an estimated value of more than \$500 million, but its actual current worth is about \$100 million, and could increase in value to \$200 million or more with some financial restructuring, according to a person briefed on the matter. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity.

Branca and McClain could leave Monday's hearing with a firmer rein on the estate. Similarly, Katherine Jackson could emerge with guardianship of her three grandchildren, since her agreement with Rowe, which grants the singer's ex-wife visitation rights, means no one is expected to challenge the current arrangement.

The to-do list for Monday's hearing has grown in recent weeks, with Beckloff deferring decisions on several issues, most of which have to do with Jackson's finances.

Among the issues Beckloff is slated to consider:

- An allowance for Katherine

old Paris Michael and 7-year-old Prince Michael II, known as Blanket. No one else has petitioned for custody of the children, and Jackson was her son's first choice named in his 2002 will.

■ Whether Katherine Jackson can challenge the men currently administering the son's estate, without actually contesting her son's will. Her attorneys have asked Beckloff to decide whether if they petition to remove Branca and McClain as administrators, they will trigger a no-contest clause in Jackson's trust. Without the protection of Beckloff's ruling, Mrs. Jackson could lose her 40 percent share of Jackson's estate if she mounts a challenge to Branca and McClain's authority.

■ Mrs. Jackson's attorneys have expressed concerns about possible conflicts of interests that Branca and McClain may have, and have been seeking greater access to Jackson's records in the form of subpoenas and depositions. They sought that authority last week ahead of Monday's hearing, but were told they would have to wait until that day for a ruling.

■ Decide whether Branca and McClain continue administering Jackson's estate. Court filings indicate the pair have already received \$5.5 million from a former Jackson financial adviser, later identified as Tohme Tohme. They have also take possession of many of the King of Pop's property, and have said in court filings that they hope to finish several multimillion deals soon.



In this March 17, 2005 file photo, pop star Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif., to begin Jackson's trial on charges of child molestation.

Jackson and her grandchildren. The special administrators of Jackson's estate have asked for monthly stipends for the group, noting that Jackson supported all of them when he was alive. Beckloff delayed considering the payments until Monday, but attorneys on both sides agree they are necessary.

■ Decide when Katherine Jackson will become the permanent guardian of her grandchildren, 12-year-old Prince Michael, 10-year-

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Aliens in the Attic

Fri. and Sat. 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:55
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:30 4:25 7:20

Thomas Haden Church, Carter Jenkins
 Adventure, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

A group of kids defend their Maine vacation home from knee-high alien invaders in this adventure comedy for the entire family. When Michigan native Bethany Pearson (Ashley Tisdale) arrives home after a secret outing with her boyfriend Ricky (Robert Hoffman), her father Stuart (Kevin Nealon) decides that it's high time for a family vacation. Packing up the car with wife Hannah (Ashley Boettcher) teenage son Tom (Carter Jenkins) and big sister Bethany in tow, Stuart invites the extended family to join them at the vacation home for some much-needed R&R and sets his sights on Maine.



Funny People

Fri. and Sat. 1:10 4:05 7:10 9:40
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:10 4:05 7:10

Adam Sandler, Seth Rogen
 Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

When seasoned comedian George Simmons learns of his terminal, inoperable health condition, his desire to form a genuine friendship cause him to take a relatively green performer under his wing as his opening act.



G-Force

Fri. and Sat. 1:15 4:15 7:30 9:45
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:15 4:15 7:30

Nicolas Cage, Steve Buscemi
 Action, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis

A group of guinea pigs trained by the government to work in espionage, armed with the latest high-tech spy equipment, soon discover that the fate of the world is in their paws. Tapped for the G-Force are guinea pigs Darwin the squad leader determined to succeed at all costs; Blaster, an outrageous weapons expert with tons of attitude and a love for all things extreme; and Juarez a sexy martial arts pro; plus the literal fly-on-the-wall reconnaissance expert, Mooch, and a star-nosed mole, Speckles, the computer and information specialist.



Harry Potter and The Half Blood Prince

Fri. and Sat. 1:05 4:10 7:15 10:10
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:05 4:10 7:15

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
 Fantasy, Adventure, Sequel • Rated PG-13



Orphan

Fri. and Sat. 1:25 4:20 7:05 9:50
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:25 4:20 7:05

Peter Sarsgaard, Isabelle Fuhrman
 Thriller, Horror • Rated R



Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs

Fri. and Sat. 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:30
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:20 4:30 7:25

John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah
 Family-Oriented Adventure • Rated PG



Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

Fri. and Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:00 4:00 7:00

Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox
 Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13

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Jessica Biel marks major musical debut



Actress Jessica Biel performs during "Guys and Dolls" in concert at The Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles on Friday, July 31, 2009.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jessica Biel sings! That may come as a surprise to audiences who only know the actress from her primarily dramatic work on television and in films, including the long-running "7th Heaven," and the big-screen "Stealth" and "The Illusionist."

Biel, 27, marks her major musical-theater debut this weekend, as the Los Angeles Philharmonic presents a three-night run of a concert version of the classic "Guys and Dolls" at the Hollywood Bowl.

"I haven't really done anything like this," Biel said, following a dress rehearsal Friday afternoon. "Well, I did one thing in college. In college, I did a concert version of 'Tommy' when I was in college. But, other than that ..."

For "Guys and Dolls," Biel takes on the role of saintly Sarah Brown, a Manhattan

missionary at odds with a gang of gamblers—and eventually in love with one of them. It's a far cry from one of Biel's last roles: a stressed-out stripper in the steamy, straight-to-video "Powder Blue."

"No, definitely not what you would think to go from 'this' into this," Biel responded, with a smile. "But that's the fun of this world. That's what I love about this job. You get to do something like that and then you go completely extreme to the other side of it, and terrify yourself in some other way. It's really about terrorizing myself."

Perhaps Broadway?

"Oh, yeah. I would love to," Biel replied. "Literally, that is one of my eight-year-old dreams. That's like my little eight-year-old inside me is cartwheeling around, thinking about that idea."

"Guys and Dolls" continues through Sunday night.

Mark Wahlberg marries girlfriend Rhea Durham

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Mark Wahlberg and his longtime girlfriend, model Rhea Durham, have married in Beverly Hills. People magazine reports the 38-year-old "Boogie

Nights" actor tied the knot Saturday in front of about a dozen friends and family at Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

Wahlberg walked the aisle in a dark suit and the 31-year-old

bride wore a white strapless dress with silver embroidery.

The couple have been together since 2001 and have three children.

Wahlberg, executive producer

of HBO's "Entourage," will appear later this year in Peter Jackson's "The Lovely Bones."

A call to Wahlberg's manager was not immediately returned Sunday.

New Orleans great Toussaint feted in hometown

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Over music and gumbo served in a historic New Orleans nightclub, pianist and hit songwriter Allen Toussaint will join the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame.

Sunday's celebration was planned in a perfect spot for Toussaint and his fellow inductee, the late rhythm and blues singer Ernie K-Doe.

The Mother-in-Law Lounge is named for K-Doe's biggest hit from the '60s, "Mother-In-Law," which was written by Toussaint. And after being destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, the rebuilt club stands as a living monument of Big Easy musical history.

"It's fitting and proper to have the ceremony there," said Toussaint, 71, whose painted image was recently added next to K-Doe's on the club's outside entrance. "I wrote that song for Ernie all those years ago. This will be refreshing,

and with the new painting, like a new grand opening."

The lounge was run for years after K-Doe's 2001 death by his widow, Antoinette, who died of a heart attack during Mardi Gras this year. The club is now being run by Betty Fox, Antoinette's daughter from a previous marriage.

"For Antoinette and Ernie, it goes on and on and on, and I love that," Toussaint said. "I love that their legacy goes on."

Toussaint has hundreds of hits to his name and received the Recording Academy Trustees Award during this year's Grammy Awards. He penned the 1966 Lee Dorsey classic "Working in a Coal Mine" and produced Dr. John's 1973 hit "Right Place, Wrong Time" and 1975's "Lady Marmalade" by the vocal trio Labelle. In 1998, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Moore plans Traverse City comedy festival

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—Oscar winner Michael Moore has more big plans for his adopted northern Michigan hometown of Traverse City, where he's already established a film festival.

Moore said Saturday that he and comedian Jeff Garlin, a star and executive producer of the HBO series "Curb Your Enthusiasm," will organize the Traverse City Comedy Arts Festival. It will run over a weekend and feature movies, stand-up and sketch comedy and other entertainment. A date has not been chosen yet

for next year's kickoff event.

"We've actually talked to some great people—I don't want to mention any names right now—who are going to come to Traverse City for this first comedy festival," said Moore, a filmmaker, author and Michigan native. "I think you'll be very pleased."

He and Garlin revealed their plans during a standing-room-only panel discussion at the fifth annual Traverse City Film Festival, which ends Sunday. A formal announcement with more details will be made soon, Moore said.



SAND SCULPTURE

A five-meter high sand sculpture of late King of Pop Michael Jackson is seen at a Berlin shopping mall, Friday, July 31, 2009 in Berlin, Germany. The sculpture was made of 200 tons of sand.

PBS chief welcomes public TV funding under Obama

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—PBS chief Paula Kerger (KUR'-gur) says budget numbers tell the tale of how public TV is faring under the Obama administration, compared to that of former President George W. Bush.

Kerger said that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's \$430 million budget for this year was left intact by President Barack Obama, in contrast to the Bush administration's repeated

bids to reduce or eliminate the federal subsidy. Kerger says Congress countered Bush's actions.

The president and CEO of PBS told the Television Critics Association on Sunday, "I guess that says something," adding that she's hoping for \$450 million next year. Federal money makes up about 15 percent of public broadcasting's funding, with other sources including corporations and viewers.

Irate commuters get an earful from loud cell phone users

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Your answer to "Minneapolis Commuter" (June 8), who was sick of overhearing personal cell phone conversations, missed the mark. I ride public transit to and from Sacramento every day, and most of the time the passengers—like me—just want a quiet ride to work and back. Sometimes a rude, obnoxious and very loud person will get on and make life miserable for the rest of us.



Dear Abby

Moving to another seat is not an option because their voices carry throughout the entire bus. Often these conversations are laced with profanity, and it becomes an endurance test to remain polite.

I no longer feel that being polite is the best solution with such people. They need to be reminded about common courtesy and respect for their neighbors. There have been days when the bus driver actually stopped the bus and ordered such passengers off. I dare say, you have not been on public transit in a while, or you would not have dismissed the complaint so quickly.

SACRAMENTO COMMUTER

DEAR COMMUTER: You are right. I haven't used public transit for some time, however, several of my staff use it daily and tell me, as you have, that phone users can be rude and obnoxious.

Contacting your local public transit carrier and complaining seems to be the best way to handle the situation. If they receive enough complaints—and I'm sure they will—they may initiate policies to stop such rude behavior. And if all else fails: earplugs! Read on:

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Commuter" is far from alone. I am a transit bus driver. Cell phones are an irritation to drivers and passengers alike on our service. To address this issue, our company initiated a cell phone policy that is printed in our transit guide. If using a cell phone on a bus, do not disturb the driver or fellow passengers, or you may be asked to stop using your cell phone. Keep it short, keep it down, keep it quiet, keep it off!

Since this policy has been in effect (it's not perfect), things have improved. I would encourage anyone who uses public transportation to ask their service to put a cell phone policy in place and enforce it.

BUS DRIVER

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Commuters on buses or trains should realize that it is not the library, and they should not expect the ride to be quiet. The writer of that letter should get a set of earplugs or, better yet, an MP3 player with headphones and listen to a recorded self-improvement book, or perhaps, something about improving tolerance.

People talking on their cell phones are making productive use of their commute time, and it might be the only time they have to chat with friends and family. Commuters should make better use of their time than just sitting there and stewing.

COMMUTER CELL PHONE USER

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The reality is that the bus or train is often packed and there is no seat to move to, so we are forced to sit and listen to incredibly personal conversations or insane babbling because the person can't sit still and use the travel time to relax.

I've heard it all—the woman announcing her new address and phone number, the guy talking about how he's going to lie to the judge during his divorce hearing, the gory details of someone's recent surgery. It's enough to make you gag. I finally got headphones.

DENVER COMMUTER

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I, too, found the conversations on the bus to be quite colorful! I now wear earphones and spend my time listening to music and reading. The convenience of a relaxing ride to work far outweighs the annoyances. I find the bumpy ride is a great abdominal workout, too.

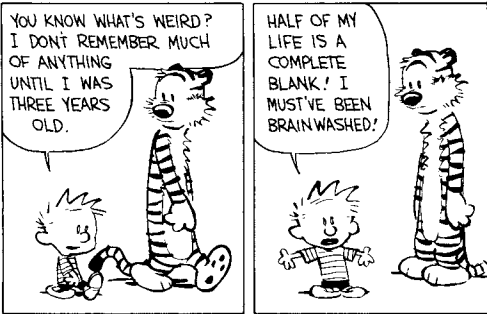
CALM-UTING IN ABQ

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

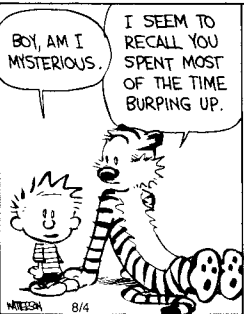
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

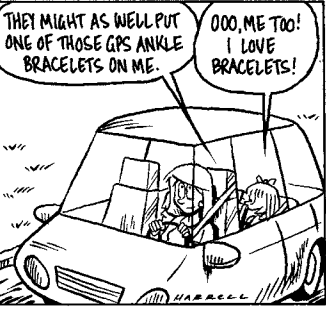


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Group of musicians
5 Great Lakes fish
9 Dubya's brother
12 Chills and fever
13 Leak slowly
14 Eggs
15 Mischievous sprite
17 Stein or Stiller
18 Go up
19 Express appreciation
21 Tag
24 A Baldwin brother
25 Lotion additive
26 Fixed firmly
30 Young lion
31 One over par
32 Rage
33 Inscribe, as in heraldry

DOWN

1 "Hum-bug!"
2 Past
3 Gist
4 Tempera-
ture unit
5 Corn eaters' throw-aways
6 Golf target
7 Sub-machine gun
8 British automobile
9 Mini-strike
10 Level
11 Teller's place (Abbr.)
16 Lubricate
20 Coop occupant
21 Chantilly, e.g.
22 Astrin-
gent
23 "Priceless Memories"
24 Congre-
gational call
26 Snug and warm
27 Swelled head
28 History chapters
29 Opposite of "stet"
31 Watched
34 Ton fractions (Abbr.)
35 Old Faithful, e.g.
37 — Lanka
38 Weight
39 Marga-
rine
40 Help a hood
41 Doctrines
44 Discover-
er's cry
45 Greek consonant
46 Ar follower
47 Reuben holder

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	I	O	T	M	P	H	P	O	O	L	
A	T	R	O	C	I	T	Y	U	R	G	E
F	O	R	M	U	L	A	S	E	A	R	N
F	O	R	M	U	L	A	S	E	A	R	N
A	L	G	A	E	B	E	L	L	E		
B	O	O	T	F	O	R	M	O	S	A	
S	A	G	O	A	S	I	S	A	L	I	
F	O	R	M	I	C	A	S	T	U	D	
W	I	T	H	I	T	E	M	S			
S	H	E	A	T	H	B	A	R			
T	O	W	N	F	O	R	M	E	R	L	
E	Y	E	D	U	N	A	B	A	T	E	
P	A	R	A	L	E	D	K	E	G	S	

Yesterday's answer 8-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cole and Dylan Sprouse, 17; Jeff Gordon, 38; Daniel Dae Kim, 41; Billy Bob Thornton, 54

Happy Birthday: It's all about give-and-take this year. The more motivated you are to collect old debts and to bend over backwards to help someone with something to offer in return, the better off you will be in the end. Focus on what counts and not on the little things. Your numbers are 3, 10, 16, 19, 24, 30, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a lead position and do something nice for someone. Your kindness will rub off and positive action will bring great results. Don't let someone you love stifle your feel-good attitude. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Refrain from getting caught in an argument that isn't your fight. Serve your own interests by getting involved in a learning process or traveling to visit someone who can clarify information that you find sketchy. Reunite with an old friend or lover. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A judgment call will show your ability to take action but will also give the impression that you lack tolerance. You may want to give a step-by-step evaluation in order to keep your thoughts out in the open and avoid criticism. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Partnership issues will raise concerns regarding commitment, loyalty and future intentions. Clear the air before it's too late. Uncertainty regarding your domestic responsibilities must be cleared up before you make any promises. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You must stay within your financial means, regardless of what others decide to do. Time is money and the more you do that is productive, the better off you will become. Don't give in to false advertising. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put more time and effort into your home, family, friendships and personal gains. You can master a skill or start a new hobby. A responsibility you have can turn into a plus if you use the experience you gain wisely. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Hold back any thoughts that may lead to personal confrontations. Let things ride and observe how everyone else reacts. A pushy individual can cause you grief if you stand in the line of fire. Don't meddle and you won't end up being blamed. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stick to practical applications but don't lose sight of your goals. Don't give in to threats or believe everything you are told. Someone you love can make a powerful impact on the way you do things financially. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Acceptance will be the key to your getting what you want. You have to abide by rules and listen to superiors. Travel plans will be costly or will set you back for other reasons. Stick to a budget. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Use your finesse and common sense to get your way. You can cut a deal with some-

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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one you want to do business with or make a financial move that will ensure that your money works for you. A love interest will be enhanced if you plan a surprise outing. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your honesty and integrity, coupled with kindness and compassion will be what counts in the end. Minor mishaps or accidents at home can be expected. Fix whatever needs to be dealt with before you put yourself in a public position. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your thoughts to yourself and you'll avoid being pulled into a situation that can set you back. A love relationship can be reinforced if you discuss your plans for the future. The uncertainty you felt in the past can now be put to rest. ***

Birthday Baby: You are dependable and take a practical approach to whatever you do. You will not back down—you are a leader, not a follower.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		7			8		9			
1				4		6				3
							6			
							2	1		
3	1		5		9			7	8	
	8	7								
			3							
6				8		2				9
			5		9			8		

Difficulty Level ★★

8/04

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	4	8	2	7	6	9	1	5
6	7	1	3	5	9	2	8	4
5	9	2	8	4	1	6	3	7
8	6	7	1	2	5	3	4	9
1	3	9	7	8	4	5	2	6
4	2	5	6	9	3	8	7	1
2	1	6	9	3	7	4	5	8
9	5	3	4	1	8	7	6	2
7	8	4	5	6	2	1	9	3

Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LONG ISLAND ICED TEA

Solution: 7 letters

C	S	S	S	H	A	K	E	A	L	I	U	Q	E	T
D	R	A	D	N	A	T	S	P	L	A	S	H	R	O
E	O	E	L	N	O	P	H	A	S	W	E	E	T	A
N	U	C	M	C	E	I	O	C	L	E	B	C	P	S
I	Q	N	T	E	O	I	T	U	A	O	X	H	I	T
B	I	U	N	A	D	H	R	R	R	E	C	I	P	E
M	L	O	L	O	S	E	O	F	O	E	B	L	M	G
O	T	I	R	I	M	T	M	L	S	P	L	L	G	A
C	M	D	N	S	A	E	E	E	C	D	L	E	N	R
E	E	R	T	E	D	T	L	A	N	R	A	D	O	E
R	A	R	V	R	S	P	K	O	O	T	B	S	L	V
G	A	R	I	S	I	D	R	C	O	H	H	A	H	E
W	E	N	A	R	O	T	K	U	O	P	G	E	R	B
S	K	L	T	V	E	S	S	O	C	I	A	L	S	
S	G	R	I	C	E	C	U	B	E	S	H	A	L	F

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Alcohol, Bars, Beach, Beverage, Chilled, Cocktail, Cola, Combined, Creme de Menthe, Dash, Drinks, Friends, Garnish, Glass, Half, Highball, Ice cubes, Lemon, Lime, Liquors, Long, Mixes, Order, Ounce, Pool, Portions, Pour, Recipe, Robert, Rocks, Serve, Shake, Social, Sour, Splash, Standard, Stir, Straw, Sweet, Taste, Tequila, Toast, Triple Sec, Vodka
Yesterday's Answer: Languages
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Tiger Woods wins Buick Open by 3 strokes

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Tiger Woods cruised to his easiest victory of the year, getting away with an awful round to open the Buick Open and an average one to hold off a weak field.

His competition and the courses he's going to play are about to get much tougher.

Woods shot a 3-under 69 and coasted to a three-shot victory with a 20-under 268 total at Warwick Hills, which hosted its first Buick Open in 1958 and seemed to stage its final one Sunday.

Woods, whose previous three wins this year were each by one shot, spent much of Sunday ahead by two before he took a three-stroke lead with the birdie at No. 16.

His businesslike final round included three birdies and no bogeys and he won without trailing in the final round for the first time since Bay Hill in 2008.

He will play at the Bridgestone Invitational this week before going to Hazeltine for the PGA Championship, his final chance to win a major this year. He scheduled himself to compete in two straight tournaments going into a major for the first time in his career.

"I feel good," Woods said. "The win helps."

Woods won the Buick Open for a third time and claimed his 69th PGA Tour victory, but the end-of-an-era feel made it more than a ho-hum experience.

"I've played all around the world, and I've never seen a day like this," said Woods, also the 2002 and 2006 winner at Warwick Hills. "This event has always been special, but today was something else."

He acknowledged thinking about his walk up 18 at Warwick Hills being his last, leading to him throwing his ball with a lot of velocity back down the fairway to fans. He also tossed a ball into the gallery at 17.

"I never do that, but today was different," Woods said. "We aren't coming back here, and I wanted to thank all these people."

GolfWeek Magazine reported on its Web site that General Motors Co. would end the PGA Tour's longest partnership, and The Associated Press confirmed it with a person briefed on the decision. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the announcement wouldn't be made until after the tournament.

GolfWeek also reported The Greenbrier in West Virginia is waiting for the PGA Tour to confirm it will replace the Buick Open in 2010.

"Hopefully, we'll get back to this region soon," Woods said.

If a sponsor doesn't step up with about \$7 million to lure a PGA Tour event back to Michigan, the best golfers in the world might not play in the state again until late in the next decade when the U.S. Open could possibly return to Oakland Hills.

"Hopefully, I'll be back sooner than that," Woods said.

From the pro-am when he played with rocker Bob Seger through Sunday, Woods was thanked by fans who appreciated his appearance.

"I've never played in front of fans like this," Woods said.

And they haven't seen a player quite like Woods.

He improved to 36-1 when he



Tiger Woods holds up the trophy after winning the Buick Open golf tournament, Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009, at Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc, Mich.

has the outright lead after 54 holes. Woods has four wins this season—twice as many as anyone else on the PGA Tour—in just 11 starts since returning from knee surgery.

Roland Thatcher (64), Greg Chalmers (68) and John Senden (70) tied for second.

"I might go take a picture of the scoreboard since I'm tied with Tiger, but I'm not going to worry about get-

ting ready for a playoff," Thatcher said when he ended his round soon after Woods was starting his. "I'm sure he's going to make my day a moot point."

Indeed he did.

Woods broke the tie with Thatcher with a 21-footer at No. 4, then two-putted from 43 feet to birdie the par-5 seventh. After saving par from the trees on 10 and water on 13, he picked up his final birdie with a two-putt at 16.

He moved into first place in the FedEx Cup standings and padded his lead on the money list with another \$918,000 after tying Vijay Singh's record of three Buick Open titles.

With the 69 wins, he trails just Jack Nicklaus (73) and Sam Snead (82).

Woods reached victory No. 69 at the age 33 years, 7 seven months—almost seven years quicker than Nicklaus and eight years sooner than Snead.

He said the growing collection of trophies is "all over the place," including his house and his mother's.

Since the 2006 British Open, Woods has won 21 of 39 starts on the PGA Tour.

Woods, playing for the first time since missing the cut at the British Open in July, got off to a brutal start at the Buick Open.

He shot a 71 in the first round and said it was probably the worst putting performance of his career, leading to him skipping his post-round practice session because he was so mad.

It only added to his legacy because he went from a tie for 95th to a victory, the largest jump he's made from the first round in a tournament he ended up winning.

Woods roared back into contention with the best five-hole start of his career—beginning 6 under in the second round—en route to a 9-under 63 for his best score in relation to par in four years. His 65 in the third round gave him a one-shot lead into Sunday.

The three-shot victory was his most lopsided since winning the 2008 Buick Invitational by eight.

"He's just laughing at all of us," Letzig said. "I wish he'd stop coming to the tournaments I'm coming to. Seriously, though, I love it."

Cabrera hits for cycle; Yanks beat White Sox



CHICAGO (AP)—Melky Cabrera became the first Yankee in

14 years to hit for the cycle, leading New York to an 8-5 victory over the Chicago White Sox in the American League on Sunday.

Cabrera hit a three-run homer in the second, doubled in the fourth and chased Mark Buehrle (11-5) with an RBI single in the fifth. He then tripled to right leading off the ninth against Scott Linebrink, drawing a loud roar from a crowd that had showered Buehrle with cheers before his first start at home since his perfect game.

Angels 13, Twins 4

At Minneapolis, Kendry Morales homered twice and had a career-high six RBIs to help the Angels sweep the three-game series against Minnesota.

Jered Weaver (11-3) struck out a career-high 11 in 6 1-3 innings for Los Angeles (63-40), which has the best record in the American League and has won 13 of their last 15 games.

Red Sox 18, Orioles 10

At Baltimore, newcomer Victor Martinez tied a career high with five hits, and Josh Reddick and Rocco Baldelli homered as Boston reached season highs in runs and hits in a win over Baltimore.

It was the fourth straight victory for the Red Sox, whose 23-hit attack in-

cluded three apiece from Mike Lowell, Kevin Youkilis and Dustin Pedroia. Martinez finished with four RBIs and Manny Delcarmen (4-2) got the win.

Royals 4, Rays 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, John Buck ended James Shields' bid for a no-hitter with a leadoff single in the eighth inning and Mitch Maier drove in three runs as Kansas City downed Tampa Bay.

Shields (6-8) dominated the Royals before Buck's hit started a two-run inning. Pinch-runner Ryan Freel advanced all the way to third when catcher Dione Navarro made an errant throw to second on Alex Gordon's fielder's choice. Maier then drove him in with an infield single that gave Kansas City a 1-0 lead.

Indians 11, Tigers 1

At Cleveland, Carl Pavano tossed eight sharp innings to lead Cleveland past Detroit.

Asdrubal Cabrera and Grady Sizemore each hit a two-run homer off Armando Galarraga (5-10) as Cleveland totaled 13 hits and won for the seventh time in 10 games.

Blue Jays 7, Athletics 2

At Oakland, California, Aaron Hill hit a two-run homer and Toronto roughed up Vin Mazzaro in a victory over Oakland.

The Blue Jays scored five runs off Mazzaro before making an out. Adam

Lind doubled after Hill's 26th homer, and Lyle Overbay and Vernon Wells each walked to load the bases. Alex Rios then hit a three-run double.

Rangers 4, Mariners 2

At Arlington, Texas, Jarrod Saltalamacchia broke a tie with a two-run homer in the seventh and Scott Feldman bounced back from his worst start of the season with seven strong innings as Texas beat Seattle.

With the score tied, Nelson Cruz led off the seventh with a single off reliever Jack White (2-2). One out later, Saltalamacchia belted White's first pitch off the foul pole in right field for his ninth homer of the season.

Dodgers 9, Braves 1

At Atlanta, Matt Kemp homered and matched a career high with five RBIs to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a win over the Atlanta Braves.

Kemp had three hits, including a three-run homer in the fifth and a two-run single in the eighth as the Dodgers outhit the Braves 19-5. Andre Ethier and James Loney also had three hits.

Astros 2, Cardinals 0

At St. Louis, Bud Norris pitched seven sharp innings in his first major league start to lead Houston over St. Louis.

Norris was working on a no-hitter before pitcher Adam Wainwright led off the sixth with a single to center.

Norris (1-0) gave up just two hits, walked four and struck out five while subbing for Roy Oswalt, who missed his turn with lower back discomfort.

Rockies 6, Reds 4, 11 innings

At Cincinnati, Dexter Fowler's two-out RBI triple in the 11th inning helped Colorado beat Cincinnati and complete a three-game sweep.

Garrett Atkins added a pinch-hit infield single to help Colorado earn its first win in five extra-inning games this season, all on the road.

Nationals 5, Pirates 3

At Pittsburgh, Josh Willingham hit a two-run homer as part of a three-run seventh inning as Washington rallied for a win over Pittsburgh.

Ryan Zimmerman had two hits and two runs, Alberto Gonzalez had two RBIs and Mike MacDougal earned his seventh save in eight opportunities for the Nationals, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Diamondbacks 5, Mets 2

At New York, Jon Garland pitched his first complete game in more than a year and Chad Tracy hit a two-run double to lead Arizona to a victory over New York.

Miguel Montero had three hits and Gerardo Parra drove in two runs to back Garland, who is 2-8 in his last

14 outings even though he's compiled seven straight quality starts.

Giants 7, Phillies 3

At San Francisco, Freddy Sanchez had two hits and two RBIs in his first game with San Francisco and Barry Zito made his third straight strong start as San Francisco beat Philadelphia.

Sanchez, who was acquired from Pittsburgh two days before the trade deadline last week, singled in his first at-bat then added a two-run double in the sixth when San Francisco scored three times to break the game open.

Brewers 6, Padres 1

At San Diego, Felipe Lopez hit a three-run double that highlighted a five-run seventh inning that lifted Milwaukee over San Diego.

Craig Counsell and Frank Catalanotto also drove in runs in the seventh, breaking a 1-all tie against four San Diego pitchers and snapping the Padres' five-game winning streak. Milwaukee won for just the fourth time in 11 games.

Marlins 3, Cubs 2

At Miami, Cody Ross hit his second home run of the game in the ninth inning to give Florida a dramatic win over Chicago.

Down 2-1 entering the ninth against former Florida closer Kevin Gregg, Dan Uggla tied it with his 19th homer. One pitch later, Ross followed suit, getting his 17th of the year and moving the Marlins within five games of Philadelphia for the NL East lead.

Phelps closes Worlds in Rome with 5th gold medal



R O M E
(A P) —
M i c h a e l
Phelps had

every reason to be satisfied after the Beijing Olympics. Yet he kept insisting there was more to do in the pool.

Clearly.

Even coming off his longest layoff and the embarrassment of being photographed inhaling from a marijuana pipe, Phelps turned in another remarkable performance over eight days at the Foro Italico. He completed it Sunday night by helping the U.S. 400-meter medley relay team set the 43rd world record of the fastest meet in history.

OK, he didn't win another eight golds. This time, he made do with five golds and a silver.

Still, Phelps showed plenty of fire, even when there's really nothing left to prove.

"I never want to look back on career and ask, 'What if?'" he said.

Swimming the butterfly leg, Phelps helped the U.S. pull away from Germany and Australia to win in 3 minutes, 27.28 seconds. That easily broke the mark of 3:29.34 set by the Americans at last summer's Olympics, another relay team that included Phelps.

"That relay brings out the best in me," Phelps said. "It doesn't matter how much energy I have, it's all going to go into every race. That's one of the things that I enjoy most—stepping out onto the blocks no matter what kind of shape I'm in."

Phelps took six months off after his Beijing triumph, drew a three-month suspension from competition after the infamous pipe photo—and he was still honored as the outstanding male swimmer of the championships. Italy's Federica Pellegrini received the female award at the final major meet for high-tech bodysuits, which will be banned Jan. 1.

We aren't likely to see these sort of times for years, maybe decades.

But Phelps said he's not concerned about turning back to the clock on attire. He's got plenty of goals in mind.

"I have more things I want to do," he said. "That's why I wanted to come back. I don't care if anyone says it was a bad idea or not, it's something that I wanted and that's why I'm doing it."

His coach, Bob Bowman, said Phelps will get all of two weeks off before he's back in the pool.

On to London in 2012.

"I've got to be in better shape," Phelps said. "I think without taking six months off, that will do it."

When he had the final gold of the world championships in his possession, Phelps made his usual climb into the stands to get a hug from his mother and sister.

It was Debbie Phelps who got her son fired up for Rome by saying she wanted to see him swim in the Eternal City, not just get in a little sightseeing.

"I didn't want her to come here and

on the top rung of the podium. Last summer, he learned just before the U.S. Olympic trials he had cancer. He put off treatment until after the games, underwent surgery when he got home and has been cancer-free since.

"What a great way to end it," said Shanteau, who had missed an individual gold by one-hundredth of a second in the 200 breaststroke. "To finally get

Lochte, taking advantage of Phelps' absence, added the 400 individual medley title to his medal haul at the championships. Lochte also won the 200 IM along with two relay golds, in addition to taking bronze in the 200 backstroke.

Lochte was far off Phelps' world record in the 400 IM, touching first in 4:07.01. Phelps won gold at Beijing in 4:03.84, but decided to scale back his

you know, I just gave it everything I had. That's all I could ask for it."

The win gave Lochte another chance to break out his diamond-studded "grillz," which he popped in his mouth while posing for photographers after the medal ceremony.

Steffen was one of the biggest female stars in Rome. She set her third world record of the meet while winning the 50 free in 23.73.

The German repeated her Olympic feat in a blistering race, beating the mark of 23.96 held by Marleen Veldhuis of the Netherlands since April. Sweden's Therese Alshammar went under the old record as well, settling for silver (23.88). Australian teenager Cate Campbell got bronze.

Tunisia's Ous Mellouli matched his Olympic gold by winning again in the 1,500 free, the longest event in the pool. After a tight battle over the first 1,000 meters with Canada's Ryan Cochrane, Mellouli pulled away to win in 14:37.28, though short of Grant Hackett's 8-year-old world record of 14:34.56.

Another race where the old mark stood up was the women's 400 IM, won by Hungary's Katinka Hosszu in 14:30.31, just off Stephanie Rice's mark of 4:29.45 at last summer's Olympics. Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe got the silver and Rice, one of the biggest stars in Beijing but not quite on form in Rome, held on for bronze.

A pair of world records fell in non-Olympic events.

Liam Tancock broke his own world record to win the 50 backstroke. The British swimmer touched in 24.04, eclipsing the mark of 24.08 he set the previous day in the semifinals. Japan's Junya Koga claimed silver and South Africa's Gerhard Zandberg earned bronze.

Russia's Yuliya Efimova set a world record while edging American Rebecca Soni in the 50 breaststroke. Efimova won in 30.09, breaking the record of 30.23 set by Canada's Amanda Reason less than a month ago. The next two also went under the old mark, with Soni (30.11) taking silver and Australia's Sarah Katsoulis (30.16) the bronze.

Phelps set two individual world records and was on two relay teams that broke marks.

He doesn't mind seem to mind that it'll be tougher to approach these times under the stricter swimsuit rules.

"This is about a sport and the athletes in it," Phelps said. "That's what makes it interesting. It doesn't matter what suit you're wearing."



Italy's Federica Pellegrini and Michael Phelps of the United States pose after receiving a prize as the most successful individual swimmers, at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Rome, Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009.

not swim well in front of her," he said.

He found other reasons to be motivated - notably when Serbia's Milorad Cavic tried to get in his head before their showdown in the 100 fly. Both swimmers became the first to break 50 seconds, but it was Phelps who touched first in a world record.

"A lot of motivating comments were said," Phelps pointed out, without mentioning Cavic by name. "That always gets me going. That's something that helped me along the way."

Eric Shanteau, who overcame testicular cancer to swim his best times, picked up the first major gold medal of his career on the breaststroke leg of the relay, to go along with a silver and a bronze in Rome. The other members of the winning team were backstroke Aaron Peirsol and freestyle anchor David Walters.

Shanteau was thrilled to finally step

it, that gold medal, was an unbelievable feeling."

Also Sunday, Ryan Lochte won his fourth gold of the championships and Germany's Britta Steffen matched her 50-100 freestyle sweep in Beijing.

No such glory for 42-year-old Dara Torres. The senior citizen of the pool finished last in her only individual final at the Foro Italico.

"I like to win, but eighth fastest in the world at 42, so I can't be too disappointed," she said.

Torres failed to match her silver-medal showing from the Olympics, when she finished just one-hundredth of a second behind Steffen. Bothered by a sore knee that will require surgery, the American was eighth in 24.48.

She plans to return to the pool in December and hasn't ruled out anything, even trying for the London Olympics at 45.

program heading into what will be his final Olympics.

"It definitely felt good to get these wins after coming second to Michael for so long," said Lochte, who broke Phelps' world record in the 200 IM with his rival cheering from the stands. "But I wish he was here swimming just because he's a great competitor and I love racing him. I'm trying to talk him into doing the IM again."

The Americans still went 1-2 even without Phelps. Tyler Clary came on strong in the freestyle to beat Hungary's Laszlo Cseh, taking silver in 4:07.31. Cseh settled for bronze at 4:07.37.

Both were closing fast when Lochte touched.

"I didn't think it was going to hurt that much," the winner said. "When I touched going into the freestyle, I just had a body-length lead and I just thought, 'If this hurts too bad, I'll lose it.' Then,

Taylor expects decision on Wolves coach 'soon'



MANKATO, Minn. (AP)—While Minnesota Timberwolves president David Kahn continues his methodical search for a new head coach, owner Glen Taylor says it now should be clear why it didn't work out with the old one.

Taylor told The Associated Press on Sunday that the financially motivated trades Kahn has made this summer that have jettisoned veterans Mike Miller, Randy Foye, Mark Madsen, Craig Smith and Sebastian Telfair probably would not have sat well with former coach Kevin McHale, who brought all those players to Minnesota when he was the boss.

Kahn told McHale in June that he would not return to coach next season, but he refused to divulge his reasons for making the decision in a news conference after it was announced.

"It's probably a little bit more obvious why he would have had trouble with Coach McHale," Taylor said Sunday after a visit to Vikings training camp in his hometown of Mankato. "Some of those guys were really his favorite guys."

"I think David knew he was going in that direction. I think he talked that over with McHale. So I think now you have a better understanding why they both agree that it probably wasn't going to work out in the long run because

David was going in a different direction than probably McHale would want to go."

The Timberwolves have been the only team in the NBA without a head coach for seven weeks now. But Taylor said on Sunday that he expects the job to be filled fairly soon.

"I'm under the assumption that, if things go good, that in the next week or so we'll make a decision on the coaching," Taylor said. "He's nailed it down to a few guys. We actually haven't made a decision on the final guy yet. But I think we're close to doing that."

Kahn has said that he is more interested in making the right decision than

a quick one, and he has backed that up with an exhaustive search. He interviewed more than a dozen candidates for the initial round and has whittled that down to three finalists—ESPN analyst Mark Jackson, Los Angeles Lakers assistant Kurt Rambis and Houston assistant Elston Turner.

The process was delayed when Kahn traveled to Spain two weeks ago to discuss draft pick Ricky Rubio's contract situation, but he began conducting the second round of interviews late last week. Turner told Houston television station KRIV-TV that he had a second interview.

Taylor said Sunday that he definitely will want to meet with the prospective coach before a decision is made.

"That's why I can tell you that a

decision has not been made," Taylor said. "I can say that for sure."

Taylor also spoke about Rubio's sticky contract situation. The 18-year-old point guard is under contract with DKV Joventut in Spain for another two years, a deal that has a buyout of around \$6.6 million.

The Timberwolves can only offer \$500,000 to help with the deal, so the financial strain it would put on Rubio is making him think twice about coming to the NBA this season.

"It appears to be just a wait and see thing," he said. "He wants to come, so that's not a problem. It's just that money deal. The team that he has played for is, so far, kind of held on to a higher figure than what his family feels they can afford to give him."

Softball association eyeing three leagues



The CNMI Softball Association is hoping to open three leagues this month to bring action back at the Miguel “Tan Ge” Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

CNMISA official John Maratita said they are planning to kick off an island-wide fastpitch softball league for both the men’s and women’s division. He added they will also start a co-ed slow-pitch league.

“We are calling on all interested players to form their team now and start preparing for these leagues. It’s been a while since we last had a league at “Tan Ge” and I am sure our players are excited to return to action,” Maratita said.

Representatives or coaches of interested teams are asked to attend a meeting on Aug. 6 at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium at 6pm.

“Initial details of the three leagues will be discussed, such as ground rules, for-

mat, and playing days,” Maratita said.

He added that entrance fee will depend on the number of teams that will participate in the three leagues.

“We will first gauge the interest of the softball community in these leagues and from thereon, we can push forward to other definite plans. Hopefully, we can open one of these leagues before the month ends,” Maratita said.

For more information, contact Maratita at 256-5483. *(Roselyn B. Monroyo)*

STRONG

From Page 28

of the 4x100m medley relay qualifying race.

The Commonwealth’s bets timed in at 4:29.77, crushing the 4:39.06 mark Wong, Staal, Graf, and Kimura submitted in the 2009 Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Guam in January.

Staal anchored the CNMI team in

the 4x100m medley relay and completed the butterfly event in 1:09.11. Wong was next and was done doing the backstroke swim in 1:08.28. Graf was third on the list and finished the breaststroke in 1:10.20, while Kimura completed the medley relay with a time of 1:02.18 in the freestyle swim.

Ireland won Heat 2 of the 4x100m medley relay with a time of 3:39.87, while Germany had the fastest quali-

fying time of 3:29.48, which is a new World Championship mark, passing the U.S.’ 3:41.54 (Barcelona, Spain, 2003).

Meanwhile, the four CNMI swimmers, who are accompanied in Rome by Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan coach Hiro Kimura and Northern Marianas Swimming Federation representative Mike Villagomez of Saipan Swim Club, are expected to return to Saipan tomorrow after a successful campaign in the World Championships.

GOAL

From Page 28

second half were courtesy of Arkie Reusora (47th minute), Hess (55th), and Chris Nelson (70th).

The win kept Inter’s unbeaten record and strengthened its hold to the top spot. The Roberts-captained Inter now has a 5-2-0, win-draw-loss record for 17 points.

Remington dropped from a tie for second place to third with its 3-1-3 mark.

Korean Juniors 11, KFAS 3

Korean Juniors blanked Korean Football Association of Saipan in the first half en route to an 11-3 win in the last game of the day.

The victory moved Korean Juniors up to solo second place, as it improved to a 4-1-2 slate. At the end of the first round, Korean Juniors was tied for second place with Remington.

Lim Jae Hyuck hit back-to-back

goals in the seventh and eighth minute to spark Korean Juniors’ goal rush.

Kang Sin Yeop, Woo Hyun Woo, Brian Ko, and Yoon Jae Yong also scored in the first half to give Korean Juniors a commanding 6-0 halftime advantage.

Lee Jun Woo put KFAS in the scoreboard with his goal in the 43rd minute of the second half and added one more in the 51st, while Hwang Young Ha tallied one in the 78th minute. However these were not enough to bring KFAS back into the game, as Woo Hyun made two more in the second half, Hyuck, Ko, and Yeop adding one more each for Korean Juniors.

KFAS absorbed its fourth loss in seven games and remained in fourth place in the team standings with its 10 points.

Matansa 3, MP United 3

In the curtain raiser, Matansa and MP United had a 3-3 draw.

Matansa got two goals from Kamrul and one from Chetri Dhiraj to force a tie with MP United. Tiger Lee and Peter

Prestley had one each for MP United, which gained its third goal on an own goal in the second half.

Kamrul notched the first goal of the game in the 10th minute, but 14 minutes later, Lee tied the match. Neither team scored in the remaining 21 minutes in the first half.

Prestley gave MP United the lead, 2-1, with his goal in the ninth minute of the second half and made it a 3-1 advantage with an own goal in the 13th minute.

Kamrul moved Matansa within one, 2-3, drilling his second goal in the game in the 34th minute and Dhiraj tied the match after knocking in his first goal in the 39th minute.

With its Sunday’s match ending in a draw, Matansa and MP United remained tied for fifth to sixth place in the team standings with their identical 2-1-4 slates.

Independents, which is at the bottom of the team standings with its 2-0-4 record, had a bye at the start of the second round.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

Elite stablemates Myron “The Natural” San Nicolas and Kelvin “The Big Hit” Fitial in the last two bouts to draw level in their head-to-head match-up against their brothers from Guam.

Saipan actually drew first blood when Marianas Elite’s Maitai “The Charger” Charley upset Pacific Games Taekwondo gold medalist Sonny Chargualaf via verbal submission at the start of the first round of their K-1 rules kickboxing match.

The first minute of action was intense but then Charley accidentally kicked Chargualaf in the groin area that necessitated a five-minute recovery period.

After the lull Chargualaf was not the same fighter as the high leg kicks and round-house kicks were no longer as potent.

The Team Countershot fighter then had trouble answering the bell for the second round and the win was awarded to Charley.

Guam, however, quickly knotted the count at 1-1 as Jun “Shockeraba” San Nicolas of Spike 22 Ground-Fu MMA beat Martin Ayuyu of Marianas Elite in the their 130-lb. division fight.

The match was a ground-and-pound galore from the onset with San Nicolas eventually mounting Ayuyu and peppering him with unanswered punches

that forced referee Tony D’Angelo to stop the fight at the 3:39 mark of the first round.

Tony “Rush” Reyes, also of Spike 22, gave his island mates a 2-1 lead when he won via rear-naked choke against ZOGAI/Tanapag Beach Bad Boiz’s Ryan Gardee at 1:56 of the first round of their 140-lb. bout.

The Saipan vs. Guam appeared headed for a mismatch when the U.S. territory recorded its third straight win when Jon “The Heat” Delos Reyes handed Chris “No Luv” Laayug his second defeat in seven fights.

Delos Reyes was the aggressor early and it got the better of him as his inadvertent knee to the face of Laayug—as the Saipan fighter was about to stand up—forced another five-minute lull.

The Guamanian put the pressure on in the second round and eventually defeated Laayug via technical knockout at the 1:17 mark of the round.

Fasi “Quickdraw” Fasi fortunately gave Saipan a lot to cheer about when he stopped Warren “The Killa” Quinata at 4:26 of the opening round of their 155-lb. contest to make it 3-2.

The biggest shocker of the evening, however, belonged to Team Predator Combat’s Nate “The Terrible” Flores after the lanky Saipan fighter upset Team Subdue’s Ray “Infamous” Apiag via arm-bar submission after 3:22 of the first round. His win made it 3-3.

Guam’s 37-year-old warrior Gil

“The Guamaniac” Meno then made it 4-3 when he forced ZOGAI’s top dog Shane “Insane” Camacho to tap out at the 2:46 mark of the second round of their middleweight match.

Camacho gave it all he got in the first minute of the opening round that saw him body-slam Meno to the canvas. He, however couldn’t sustain the effort in their grudge match and fought on fumes the rest of the way.

Giving up more than 30 lbs., Slade “The Rage” Adelbai then fought valiantly before losing to Psycho Gym’s Toby “Big Tobz” Mesa in their match-up.

Adelbai simply had no answer against Mesa’s bulk that forced him to fight on his back majority of the bout.

When most of the crowd thought the fight would be decided by points, Mesa unloaded an overhand right that didn’t appear to connect. It however forced Adelbai to retreat and in his haste, he appeared to trip over his own feet.

D’Angelo ruled it a knockout at 4:35 of the fourth and final round and Saipan was on a 5-3 hole.

Luckily for CNMI fight fans, Fitial and San Nicolas came to the rescue with the former reasserting his dominance over Manny “The Enforcer” Chong in the main event and the latter bloodying Eric “The Terror” Tedtaotao so badly that ring doctor Bill Weiss had to call an end to their semi main event bout.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS									
AMERICAN LEAGUE									
East Division									
New York	63	42	.600	—					
Boston	62	42	.596	1/2					
Tampa Bay	57	48	.543	6					
Toronto	51	54	.486	12					
Baltimore	44	60	.423	18	1/2				
Central Division									
Detroit	54	49	.524	—					
Chicago	54	52	.509	1	1/2				
Minnesota	52	53	.495	3					
Cleveland	44	61	.419	11					
Kansas City	41	63	.394	13	1/2				
West Division									
Los Angeles	63	40	.612	—					
Texas	59	44	.573	4					
Seattle	54	51	.514	10					
Oakland	44	60	.423	19	1/2				
NATIONAL LEAGUE									
East Division									
Philadelphia	59	44	.573	—					
Florida	55	50	.524	5					
Atlanta	53	52	.505	7					
New York	50	54	.481	9	1/2				
Washington	33	72	.314	27					
Central Division									
St. Louis	58	50	.537	—					
Chicago	55	48	.534	1/2					
Houston	52	53	.495	4	1/2				
Milwaukee	52	53	.495	4	1/2				
Cincinnati	45	59	.433	11					
Pittsburgh	45	59	.433	11					
West Division									
Los Angeles	65	40	.619	—					
Colorado	58	47	.552	7					
San Francisco	58	47	.552	7					
Arizona	46	59	.438	19					
San Diego	43	63	.406	22	1/2				
Yesterday's Games									
Cleveland 11, Detroit 1									
Boston 18, Baltimore 10									
Kansas City 4, Tampa Bay 1									
N.Y. Yankees 8, Chicago White Sox 5									
L.A. Angels 13, Minnesota 4									
Toronto 7, Oakland 2									
Texas 4, Seattle 2									
Cleveland 11, Detroit 1									
Boston 18, Baltimore 10									
Kansas City 4, Tampa Bay 1									
N.Y. Yankees 8, Chicago White Sox 5									
L.A. Angels 13, Minnesota 4									
Toronto 7, Oakland 2									
Texas 4, Seattle 2									
BUICK OPEN SCORES									
GRAND BLANC, Michigan (AP)—Final scores Sunday at the Buick Open, a \$5.1 million PGA Tour event played at the 7,127-yard, par-72 Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club (FedExCup points in parentheses);									
FINAL ROUND									
Tiger Woods (500), \$918,000	71-63-65-69	—268							
Roland Thatcher (208), \$380,800	70-64-73-64	—271							
Greg Chalmers (208), \$380,800	66-68-69-68	—271							
John Senden (208), \$380,800	64-66-71-70	—271							
Y.E. Yang (110), \$204,000	65-69-71-67	—272							
Ben Crane (95), \$177,225	68-71-65-69	—273							
Michael Letzig (95), \$177,225	67-65-68-73	—273							
LOCAL SCORES									
NMIFA STANDINGS									
	W	D	L	Pts.					
International FC	5	2	0	17					
Korean Juniors	4	1	2	13					
Remington	3	1	3	10					
KFAS	3	0	4	9					
MP United	2	1	4	7					
Matansa FC	2	1	4	7					
Independents FC	2	0	4	6					

UFO

From Page 28

will take on MIFICPA-Bowlers in the first game in the playoffs of the masters division. The NMBA-MIFICPA tiff is set for 6pm. NMBA finished the regular season in second place with its 5-1 record and won its last three games. The Bowlers were winless in the single-round robin regular season and are seeded last in the playoffs.

Bayani-Shirley’s Coffee Shop topped the masters division with its 5-1 record, beating NMBA in the tiebreak after prevailing in their lone meeting in the regular season, 103-95. Bayani gains a bye in the first round and automatically earned a semis slot.

In the main game at 7:30pm, open defending champion Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense-Marianas Wireless will take on Cabalen-Jhems Restaurant.

SIP is seeded second in the playoffs after a 5-1 slate in the regular season. SIP is on a five-game winning run after bowing to MDX-Chow Queen Bakery during the opening of the league, 85-94. MDX was undefeated in the regular season and drew a bye in the first round.

Cabalen had only one win in six games in the regular season and placed last in the seven-team field. The Jhems Restaurant-

sponsored team’s lone victory was courtesy of its 94-93 upset over Bayani.

On Thursday, Boholanos-University of Loyola will duel MDX-Armatech in a playoff game in the masters division at 6pm. Boholanos ended up in third place in the team standings with its 4-2 record, while MDX had a 2-4 mark and is seeded sixth in the playoffs. MDX tied MAFEA-Bank of Saipan in win-loss record, but the latter won the tie-break and moved up to fifth place after beating MDX in the regular season.

In the open division game also on Thursday, Bayani will meet VisMinda-FGC/NBA International at 7:30pm. Bayani and VisMinda finished the regular season with identical 2-4 records, but Bayani is seeded higher at the No. 4 spot due to the winner-over-the-other rule.

NMBA-Jam V Fashion also had a 2-4 mark in the regular season, but lost in the three-way tie and dropped to No. 6. It will face Samahang Manggagawang Filipino-Quichocho Law Office this Saturday at 7pm.

In the master division game this Saturday at 5:30pm, Cabalen-Star Water will collide with MAFEA-Bank of Saipan. Cabalen-Star Water is seeded fourth in the masters division with its even 3-3 record and is slightly favored against MAFEA having won their lone meeting in the regular season.

14th Annual Tournament of Champions

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Junior golfer Jae Young Choi of B Flight eyes his target during the 14th Annual Tournament of Champions last Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.



Laolao Bay president Yun Kim prepares for his second shot to the par-4 No. 13 hole on the west course.



Barrigada, Guam Mayor Jesse Palican took time out from his busy schedule to play in the weekend tournament.



An A Flight participant watches his ball roll to the greens of hole No. 9. of the west course.



Carl Hocog picks up his ball.



A group of golfers poses for a group photo after finishing the tournament.



J.J. Atalig of the B Flight chips from the fairways.



Staff from Laolao Bay Golf Resort and Laolao Bay president Yun Kim pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the shortened tournament.



Rep. Arnold Palacios, second left, is joined by three others in a group photo during a short break in their game last Sunday.



Phelps closes worlds in Rome with 5th gold medal

Michael Phelps had every reason to be satisfied after the Beijing Olympics. Yet he kept insisting there was more to do in the pool.

24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Tiger Woods wins Buick Open by 3 strokes

Tiger Woods cruised to his easiest victory of the year, getting away with an awful round to open the Buick Open and an average one to hold off a weak field.

25



28 TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Strong finish for CNMI swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Swimming Team finished what it started, completing the last two days of the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy in record-breaking fashion.

The quartet of Rezne Wong, Kai Staal, Cooper Graf, and Shin Kimura debuted in the 2009 edition of the biennial event on June



16 and quickly began their record-chasing mission with three CNMI National marks and one personal best time.

In the last two days of the tournament (Saturday and Sunday), the CNMI bets shattered two more records bringing the list to 12.

Staal competed in his last



Shin Kimura, seen here competing in a local tournament early this year, completed the CNMI Team's participation in the 4x100m medley relay race in the 13th FINA World Championships last Sunday after timing in at 1:02.18 in the freestyle swim.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

individual swim last Saturday via the qualifying race for the 50m backstroke. The 15-year-old swimmer finished second on Heat 4 with a time of 29.75 seconds, a new age-group mark in the 15 to 16 division. Staal's previous best was 31 seconds, which he posted in a meet in Guam in May this year. He is the lone CNMI swimmer to break the 30-second barrier in the 50m backstroke.

Staal was only .09 of a second behind Heat 4 winner Jean-Luc Augier of Sta. Lucia. Brazil's Guio Guilherme recorded the fastest qualifying time with his new World Championship record of 24.49 seconds. Thomas Rupprath of Germany owned the previous World Championship mark of 24.70 seconds logged in Barcelona, Spain in 2003.

The CNMI swimmers joined their last event in this year's World Championships last Sunday, competing on Heat 2

See **STRONG** on Page 26

Goal rush lifts Inter, Korean Juniors to easy wins



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

International FC and Korean Juniors cruised to easy wins at the start of the second round of the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Inter played in the second game of the triple-treat weekend and walloped Remington, 7-1, repeating its first round victory against the league's newest team.

Jake Hess started Inter's streak of goals when he broke

loose and canned the first goal of the game at the second minute. Nine minutes later, Jeff Cloud, scored, too tying the game at 1-all.

That was the first and last time Remington found the back of the net, and two successive own goals in the first half allowed Inter to pull away. Dale Roberts entered

the scoring picture with a goal in the 30th minute and Inter took a 4-1 lead at halftime.

Inter's three more goals in the

See **GOAL** on Page 26

Korean Juniors' Cho Jin Wook and KFAS' Li Ming Zhe go for a header during their game in the second round of the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SIP's Brendon Talania is airborne, as he goes for a fancy shot against Cabalen's Jesse Mina, left, and Ferdie Tobias during their game in the regular season of the open division in the UFO caging.

SIP will duel Cabalen at the start of the playoffs tonight.

UFO caging playoffs start tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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The race is on for the championship tickets in the masters and open divisions, as the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League begins its playoff round tonight at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.



Two matches will kick off action in the playoff round,

which will have a single-elimination format in both divisions.

Northern Marianas Bartenders Association-Ebisuya

See **UFO** on Page 26

Saipan fighters salvage tie vs Guamanians

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Second of a three-part series

TRENCH TECH

Saipan mixed martial arts fighters proved that they are

at par with their counterparts from Guam after forging a 5-5 tie in last Friday's Trench Warz X: Collision at the jam-packed Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Homegrown MMA talents, however, waged an uphill battle and needed wins by Marianas

See **SAIPAN** on Page 26

Team Predator Combat's Nate "The Terrible" Flores fights on his back against Team Subdue's Ray "Infamous" Apiag in their 155-lb. division bout in last Friday's Trench Warz X: Collision at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

MARK RABAGO

